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Near East & South Asia

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Daily Report
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FBIS-NES-95-231 *1 December 1995*

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Islamic Affairs

Political Islam Review: AL-SHA'B 24 Nov

NC3011140095

[FBIS Editorial Report] The following is a comprehensive review of all items in the 24 November edition of the Arabic language newspaper AL-SHA'B that pertain to political Islamic issues.

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1. Writer Views Prison Terms Against MB Figures
2. Mubarak Urged To Defer Ratifying Verdicts Against MB Leaders
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14. Writer Says Riyadh, Islamabad Bombings Serve Israel
15. Writer Views Islamic-Jewish Conflict Over Jerusalem

WRITER VIEWS PRISON TERMS AGAINST MB FIGURES

In an approximately 600-word report on pages 1 and 8 under banner headline "Cruel Verdicts Passed by the Military Court Against the Muslim Brotherhood [MB] Leaders," Dawud Hasan notes the verdicts handed down by the Higher Military Court in the case involving 82 members after deliberations that lasted two months. The report says that amid "unprecedented security measures," the Military Court sentenced five MB leaders to five years with hard labor, and 42 others to three years with hard labor, and acquitted 25 others. He notes that the court passed its verdicts in two separate hearings, each lasting five minutes, "without reading the details of the verdict." He says that the MB leaders shouted Islamic slogans in the docks and demanded to read a statement, but the president of the court refused. When they insisted on reading it, the court ordered all foreign correspondents and human rights organizations representatives out so as not to hear the statement.

Hasan also notes that a state security force broke into the MB weekly AL-DA'WAH offices, confiscated all books, documents, funds, drove the workers out "by force," and closed its headquarters. He notes that the defense panel earlier sent a warning to the president of the court that handing down the verdicts is unconstitutional, because the clauses of the Constitution stipulate against continuing to hear a case put to the administrative judiciary and the Higher Constitutional Court. The defense panel demanded that president of the court refrain from declaring the verdicts but he refused.

MUBARAK URGED TO DEFER RATIFYING VERDICTS AGAINST MB LEADERS

A 630-word editorial signed by AL-SHA'B demands that President Mubarak defer ratifying the verdicts against the MB leaders until after the Higher Constitutional Court passes its verdict on the contest against the case. (filed as nc281117195)

U.S. LAWYERS TO CAMPAIGN FOR RELEASE OF MB DETAINEES

A 200-word unattributed report on page 1 cites two named U.S. lawyers, who are members of the International Society for Human Rights, as saying that they will submit reports on the military trials of the MB figures and their violation of law and human rights to their society, the United Nations, the U.S. Congress, and international organizations, to pressure the Egyptian government to release the MB leaders or to try them before ordinary courts. In a statement to AL-SHA'B, the lawyers said that they have followed up the progress of the trials from the beginning. The report notes that Amnesty International also condemned the military trials of the MB and stressed that they violate the basic standards of justice and Egypt's own pledges.

UNIVERSITY STUDENTS DEMONSTRATIONS CONTINUE

In an approximately 550-word report on pages 1 and 8, Tariq 'Abd- al-Hamid claims that students of al-Mansurah, Hulwan, and 'Ayn Shams Universities staged massive demonstrations in the past few days to protest the detention and dismissal of a large number of Islamic students, and condemn the military trial of civilians. He says that al-Mansurah University was almost paralyzed by the demonstrations. When the students staged a play ridiculing the tragic situation in al-Mansursah University, it was noticed that men with radio sets relayed the proceedings to officials in the State Security Intelligence Service, which further inflamed the students.

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LABOR PARTY MEMBER'S HEALTH DETERIORATING IN JAIL

A 120-word unattributed report on page 1 says that the health of shaykh 'Abd-al-Ruhman Lutfi, the Labor Party secretary in Mallawi, continues to deteriorate after he was moved from the al-Wadi al- Jadid Prison to the detainees ward at the Qasr al-'Ayni Hospital early in November. Noting that his family members are not allowed to visit him, the report says that the Emergency Higher State Security Court has not set a date for hearing the objection submitted by the interior minister to the ruling passed to release him.

OPPOSITION CANDIDATES SPEAK AT ELECTION CONFERENCE

A 600-word report on pages 1 and 8 by Khalid Yunus says Counselor Muhammad Ma'mun al-Hudaybi, an Islamic Alliance candidate in the al- 'Ajuzah and al-Duqqi constituency in Cairo, staged a conference at the Liberal Party headquarters on 22 November. Al-Hudaybi criticized the ruling NDP's monopoly of state radio, television, and press, "the only preoccupation of which is to sing the government's praises." He also criticized the interior minister's decision banning election rallies and marches, saying it contradicts the provisions of the administrative judiciary, which recognize the right of candidates and the masses to hold rallies and organize peaceful marches. Al-Hudaybi noted that the Islamic Alliance, of which the MB is a part, does not consider Islam to have a monopoly. The Islamic Alliance also calls for "good treatment of the Copts," as God Almighty ordered. He pointed out that the MB represents a legal, "not banned," group. He said the State's handling of the MB over the past 15 years and visits to MB headquarters in Cairo by Yasir 'Arafat and former Sudanese Prime Minister al-Sadiq al-Mahdi took place under the State authorities' nose, which is cogent proof that the MB is a legal group. He stressed the Brotherhood's "adherence to the republican system" and that the nation is the source of legislation drawn from the Islamic constitution. He called for "keeping the army away from politics," noting that the referral of civilians to the military court is "a disgrace for the Egyptian judiciary."

Speaking at the conference, Liberal Party leader Mustafa Kamil Murad said the Islamic Alliance calls for implementing Islamic shari'ah, adding that the concept of shura in Islam is broader than democracy. Stressing the need to amend the Constitution and abolish any law that restricts freedom, he said the elections should be free and honest.

In his speech, Labor Party Secretary General 'Adil Husayn noted continuing government restrictions on opposition candidates in general and Islamic Alliance candidates in particular, which results in unprecedented silent elections. He asserted that the figures the government gives on its achievements and that are reiterated by the government media are "lies and illusion," an attempt to conceal the fact, which is that people are suffering "a despotic regime and emergency laws." He noted that the government was not content with restricting the Islamic candidates; it also apprehended them before the elections and fabricated the farce of military trials. He stressed that the "Islamic alternative would extricate the nation from all its economic and moral crises."

Shaykh Jamal Qutb, People's Assembly member and preacher at the al-Azhar Mosque, said the current People's Assembly enacted 60 laws in the past five years. He said they are the worst kind of laws because they restrict freedom.

OPPOSITION LEADER ON ELECTIONS, BOMBING, TERRORISM

In an approximately 4,000-word article taking up page 5, "A Most Serious Decision Has Been Made To Rig the Elections; All Democratic Forces Must Move," Labor Party Secretary General 'Adil Husayn discusses the Egyptian Embassy blast in Islamabad, the elections, and terrorism. He says our nation's sorrow—and our party is at the heart of the nation—is spontaneous and genuine. He notes remarks by AL-MUSAWWAR writer Mahmud al-Sa'dani that a great deal must have been wrong to lead us to the current impasse. He says the Egyptian Embassy blast is "a tragedy by any standard" and points to a need to examine the "causes that led Egyptians to "vent this grudge and spite" against other Egyptians. After the attempt on President Mubarak in Addis Ababa, he says, many people believed that the incident would be studied and decisions made to right many wrongs. But months passed and nothing happened, not even concerning the absence of a vice president, an issue that the Addis Ababa attempt on President Mubarak highlighted. The well-wishers who congratulated President Mubarak also wanted "change and reform." But all the rulers understood from the incident was that the people support President Mubarak and the status quo. Obviously, after the Islamabad blast, the rulers behaved in the same way. They wanted to turn the nation's grief and denunciation of the Islamabad murder into homage and allegiance to the NDP and justify its stay in power, even though "the nation will only emerge from its sorrow by removing this party."

Turning to terrorism, Husayn says he denounces the youths' resorting to arms to express rejection and opposition. He argues that the issue is to contain this and prevent its continuation and proliferation. He says the rulers "must confess" that this phenomenon is "growing"

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despite successive statements that the security agencies had uprooted terrorism. He argues that "police methods are not sufficient" to address terrorism, because the problem is "political" and must be dealt with as such.

Discussing Egyptian officials' and media claims that violence has become an international phenomenon and international efforts must be coordinated to confront it, Husayn argues that violence is not new and that no one needs anyone to remind him of this, because they establish fair systems and thus keep the rejectionists an isolated minority. When governments fail to address terrorism, they must be removed, he says, adding that the Egyptian rulers have "failed" to achieve security and stability because of their "despotism and inability to establish fair political systems." He maintains that a fair system is based on two pillars, "recognition of the role of Islam and democratic change," and claims that the rulers are seeking to destroy both. Like other Muslim peoples, he maintains, Muslims in Egypt are living through a "religious awakening that cannot be stopped." Noting the official media claim that the terrorists are far from understanding true Islam and that Islam calls for wise and good counselling, he asks: Where are the available opportunities for the true preachers of Islam who preach good counselling? He asks: In whose interest is this insistence that the Islamic Alliance supports terrorism? Why the slander and lies? He asserts that the Islamic Alliance members are proponents of peaceful political competition among the various parties, adding that all the facts prove this.

Turning to the United States, Husayn says there is no doubt that the United States and the other Western countries are very apprehensive of the modern Islamic awakening. He says he has read reports that "the policymakers in the United States believe that Islamic extremism must be contained by encouraging cooperation between the secular parties and the moderate Islamic parties, even if this helps the Islamic groups assume power through legal means." He then asks how a government in a Muslim country could be more catholic than the pope. He asks how the government could seek to outdo the Americans. He claims that the Egyptian Government sets out as its goal fighting all advocates of Islam, jailing them, and trying them before military courts. He claims that what he calls this denial of Islam and its role is connected with government efforts to destroy the other pillar of stability, democratic transformation, which the rulers fiercely oppose. He says this is manifest in the current elections, which are the worst ever and thoroughly rigged. He claims that the regime seeks to destroy the two pillars—Islam and democracy—to maintain the current situation and remain in power. The rulers realize that free elections will remove them from power and that the Islamic Alliance is the most capable of leading the change, he maintains, adding: They claim they are combating terrorism but in truth they are doing this to stay in power.

ELECTION RESTRICTIONS, ABUSES NOTED

A 100-word report by Yusuf Sa'd on page 1 says that while all media organs are devoted to campaigning hysterically for the ruling NDP and its achievements, the Alexandria security director summoned opposition candidates to a meeting. He told the candidates that marches, rallies, and the use of loud-hailers for campaigning are not allowed. He also said that every candidate should have only one representative on each committee and constituency. The reporter says this shows that the Interior Ministry is trying to restrict the freedom of elections. He calls on the opposition parties to reject and foil this attempt.

A 300-word unattributed report on page 6 says that campaigns of police repression and provocation have escalated as the election campaign enters its final stage. It notes that the security agencies arrested Islamic Alliance candidate Muhammad 'Abd-al-Quddus and five of his supporters in Bulaq and many Islamic Alliance candidates in al-Qalyubiyah and Port Said. The report says this blatant defiance of the will of the masses confirms the intention to rig the elections.

LABOR PARTY LEADER HIGHLIGHTS PROGRAM

In a 1,000-word report on page 6, Tariq 'Abd-al-Hamid notes Labor Party leader Ibrahim Shukri's election campaign in the Shirbin Region. At his meetings with the masses, Shukri discusses domestic and foreign policies. He notes the continuing application of the emergency law for 15 years. He claims that the current regime "fights Islam, religous people, and freedom." He reiterates the view that "Islam provides solutions to all Egypt's problems." Referring to the United States, he says it is the master of the new world order and adds that the U.S. Democratic and Republican parties vie at the expense of the Arabs and Muslims in the interest of the Zionists and Israel, noting in this regard the U.S. Congress decision to move the U.S. Embassy to Jerusalem. He says the assassination of Israeli Prime Minister Rabin confirms that the Zionists "introduced terrorism into our region." He notes the killing of Swedish UN envoy Bernadotte by what he calls Jewish gangs in the early stages of the Palestinian-Jewish conflict and the killing of Egyptian POW's during the 1956 and 1967 wars. Turning to the current situation in the Arab world, he says that while Israel is "our primary enemy," the Arab rulers are rushing to

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normalize relations with it. He notes that the Egyptian people resist normalizing ties with Israel. He says Camp David Accord clauses stipulate the deployment of multinational forces, mostly American, in Sinai and that three fourths of Sinai remain demilitarized. He asks: How can we rebuild it if it is not returned to Egyptian sovereignty?

POLICE ARREST SUICIDE BOMBERS

A 230-word unattributed report on page 8 says police arrested 36 individuals believed to be al-Jihad members who were targeting senior political figures.

AL-JIHAD CLAIMS BOMBING EGYPTIAN EMBASSY

A 225-word unattributed report on page 8 publishes an al-Jihad statement on the Egyptian Embassy blast in Islamabad.

U.S. MIDEAST POLICY VIEWED

In a 500-word boxed column entitled "The U.S. Policy in the Arab Region" on page 9, Muhammad Jamal 'Arafah views a lecture by U.S. Assistant Secretary of State Robert Pelletreau in Washington last week. Pelletreau defined five principles of U.S. policy on the Middle East. He said the Clinton administration seeks to contain the countries and organizations that encourage or support extremism. 'Arafah says that what Pelletreau announced is nothing new, asserting that the U.S. Administration promised to link foreign policy with the observance of human rights, but President Clinton backed down in the first confrontation with the PRC. He says he ignored the repression of political opponents in the PRC in return for economic cooperation. Clinton also ignored Israeli violations of human rights, Russian atrocities against the Chechens, and the massacre of Muslims in Bosnia, 'Arafah charges. He argues that reviving talk about human rights now may be linked with the approaching U.S. elections. Clinton, he says, seeks to safeguard U.S. interests in the region and fears threats to these interests should opponents to the Arab regimes or Islamic fundamentalists assume power in the region.

U.S.-BASED REPORT ON U.S. POLICY ON AFRICA NOTED

A 900-word unattributed article on page 9 discusses a report released by the African Research Center in Washington on 30 September on U.S. policy in Africa. The report asserts that the U.S. Administration is making feverish attempts to curtail Islamic regimes. The United States, it says, is pursuing a policy of "containment and pressure" to prevent the Islamic tide from spreading to other regions, to safeguard its allies and its vital interests. The report notes that the U.S. Administration feels "particular apprehension" about the situation in Egypt, its biggest ally in the region. It says the failure of the U.S. Administration to contain Islamic fundamentalism would deal a strong blow to imperialism in the region. The report, which is published five times annually, focuses on U.S. security policy in Africa, noting that the latest report emphasizes the prominent strategic importance of Egypt and its current political situation. It says U.S. officials feel a "special responsibility" toward "containing and neutralizing the Islamic regimes worldwide." The U.S. policymakers, it says, believe the United States must use all the necessary means to eliminate the Islamic governments and prevent them from spreading any influence to other regions. It says the possibility of Islam assuming power in Egypt "must be confronted with a U.S. military response." The report says CIA experts believe the regime in Egypt is weak and that President Mubarak has failed to address the problems besetting Egypt, particularly poverty and corruption. It claims that in the absence of real democracy and continuing routine violations of human rights in Egypt, the United States "completely supports everything the Egyptian regime is doing to quell the Islamic movement by force."

WRITER SAYS RIYADH, ISLAMABAD BOMBINGS SERVE ISRAEL

In an 800-word article, "From Geneva to Islamabad; Distortion of Muslims and Arabs; Zionists Cheer," Muna Yasin discusses the assassination of Israeli Prime Minister Rabin, the murder of an Egyptian diplomat in Geneva, and the bombings of the U.S. military mission in Riyadh and the Egyptian Embassy in Islamabad. She argues that it is difficult for any observer not to link these incidents. She says Rabin's assassin stands accused of religious extremism while the perpetrators of the other three incidents are accused of Islamic terrorism, which serves to instigate the world against Islam and Muslims, not terrorist groups. She states that the bombing of the U.S. mission in Riyadh consolidates people's image of terrorism circulated by the Western media and Zionism in connection with Islam and Muslims. She asserts that if "Zionist" hands did not directly perpetrate these incidents, at least "Zionism cheers those who offered it this service to turn the world's attention from the terrorism that is rife in Israel." She says that those who feed "Zionist" and Western media with news of acts that distort Islam and Muslims are neither Muslim nor Arab.

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WRITER VIEWS ISLAMIC-JEWISH CONFLICT OVER JERUSALEM

Kamal Habib writes a 2,000-word article, "Jerusalem in the Islamic-Jewish Conflict," on page 11. He discusses Jerusalem since ancient times and the various conquests to which the city has been exposed throughout the ages. He argues that the modern Islamic- Jewish conflict is one over "existence, not borders" and is a "continuing social conflict." He says that since the advent of Islam, the Jews have considered the Muslims to be their enemies. He provides examples to prove his point. He suggests that Western steps to return the Jews to Palestine stemmed from faith in the Torah, adding that the struggle with the Jews is thus "basically governed by an ideological religious dimension" and that there is "no chance of changing the nature of this conflict." He cites various verses from the Koran urging Muslims to fight the Jews. He points to Israeli expropriation of Arab land in Jerusalem, attacks on Islamic mosques in Hebron and Jerusalem, and the possession of nuclear weapons to threaten Muslims, saying they are examples of Jewish hostility to Muslims.

Political Islam Review: AL-SHA'B 26 Nov

NC0112114295

[FBIS Editorial Report] The following is a comprehensive review of all items in the 26 November edition of the Arabic language newspaper AL-SHA'B that pertain to political Islamic issues.

CONTENTS:

1.'Adil Husayn Launches Diatribe Against NDP Rival Candidate
2. Ibrahim Shukri Accuses Government of Planning To Rig Votes
3. EOHR Denounces Military Court Sentences Against Muslim Brotherhood Leaders
4. Writer Says Regime Has Brought Bad Luck, Disaster
5. Police Arrest Supporters of Islamist Alliance Candidates
6. Profiles of Labor Party, Islamist Candidates Published
7. Writer Regrets Nonparticipation of Shaykhs in Elections

'ADIL HUSAYN LAUNCHES DIATRIBE AGAINST NDP RIVAL CANDIDATE

In a 1,000-word report on page 1, Labor Party Secretary General 'Adil Husayn, who is a candidate for the People's Assembly elections in the Heliopolis-Madinat al-Nasr constituency of Cairo, launches a diatribe against 'Abd-al-Mun'im 'Amarah, his main rival from the ruling National Democratic Party [NDP]. Husayn says 'Amarah "was not content to rig 500 or 1,000 votes, but rigged 25,000 votes." Husayn describes 'Amarah as the "biggest forger ever," for trying to include the Stadium Area, which numbers 25,000 voters, in the Heliopolis-Madinat-al-Nasr constituency. Husayn calls the Stadium Area the "Amarah settlement," comparing it with settlements Israel has built in the West Bank to "replace the original inhabitants."

But an administrative court on 23 November issued a "historic ruling" excluding the Stadium Area from the Heliopolis-Madinat al- Nasr constituency.

Husayn says that following the court ruling, "Amarah was not ashamed, did not apologize, and did not withdraw" from the elections. Husayn accuses NDP officials of tyranny and corruption. He reiterates the Labor Party's slogan that "Islam is the Solution" and predicts a victory for the Labor Party and the Islamist Alliance in the 29 November elections.

IBRAHIM SHUKRI ACCUSES GOVERNMENT OF PLANNING TO RIG VOTES

In a 1,200-word article on pages 1 and 2, Labor Party leader Ibrahim Shukri accuses the government of "interfering in the election process." He also accuses the government-owned press of "disparaging" the opposition by publishing electoral polls showing that the NDP will win most seats in the new People's Assembly while the opposition parties will win only 50 seats.

Shukri asks: "What did the ruling party offer when it controlled 95 percent of the seats in the former People's Assembly?" What did it offer the people so they would give it confidence this time? He maintains that "all international" reports indicate that Egypt has made no progress; rather, it has become poorer. Debts have accumulated and increased in relation with the GNP. He asks: What has the NDP offered people when workers are being expelled from their factories and are not allowed to stage "peaceful strikes in defense of their interests threatened by privatization, on which the government has acquiesced to IMF demands?"

Shukri further says that the government has been "fishing in troubled waters" since the "criminal incident" against the Egyptian Embassy in Islamabad. He says that although the Labor Party has strongly denounced this crime, there are those who are "fishing in troubled waters" and "hitting" us "below the belt." He cites a "strange" incident in which a "mayor," who is not identified, gathered school headmasters in the presence of an NDP candidate and told them: "Ibrahim Shukri is implicated in the Pakistan crime and anyone who gives his vote to Shukri will be supporting terrorism."

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Shukri repeats his allegation that the government continues to interfere in the elections and that "there are backstage plots to ignore court rulings, especially in the Madinat al-Nasr constituency in which Labor Party Secretary General 'Adil Husayn is a candidate."

EOHR DENOUNCES MILITARY COURT SENTENCES AGAINST MUSLIM BROTHERHOOD LEADERS

An unattributed 750-word report on pages 1 and 2 says the Egyptian Organization for Human Rights [EOHR] and other international human rights organizations have "denounced" the "harsh sentences" issued by a military court against Muslim Brotherhood leaders. An EOHR report has indicated that the extensive use of military courts risks involving the Armed Forces in "political squabbles," which threaten the unity and cohesion of society. Meanwhile, Brotherhood official spokesman Ma'mun al-Hudaybi has stated that the sentences must not be implemented, because they are not final and cannot be final unless they are ratified by President Mubarak, who is also the supreme commander of the Egyptian Armed Forces. Al-Hudaybi has also stated that the closure of the Brotherhood offices in Egypt is "illegal," because the sentences are not final. Brotherhood spokesman in Europe Kamal al-Halbawi has issued a statement "denouncing" the military court sentences and the "violation" of the Constitution and laws in Egypt.

WRITER SAYS REGIME HAS BROUGHT BAD LUCK, DISASTER

In a 500-word article on page 2, Dr. al-Shafi'i Bashir accuses the government of bringing "bad luck, high prices, and disaster" to the country. He says that under this regime, the country had two earthquakes in the space of three years. Nothing like this had happened for a century, he says. In three years the military court issued death sentences against over 60 civilians. This did not happen under any government in the preceding century. As far back as Egypt's independence in 1922, no Egyptian Embassy abroad had been blown up. Yet this happened during this government. The country's modern history had never witnessed anything like the killing of over 800 officers, soldiers, and civilians under this government. There was none of the agony, anxiety, high prices, and disaster that we have seen during this government. As further signs of the bad luck, he cites the sinking of the ferryboat "Salim Express" off the Egyptian Red Sea coast and flash floods in Alexandria and Upper Egypt. He also cites the high prices of bread, meat, eggs, vegetables, clothes, and footwear, compared with the prices of 10 years ago. The people's dignity, he asserts, has been subjected to "insults and to the injustice, repression, and tyranny of the government," which has been ruling them with an Emergency Law for 14 years, aided by 300,000 officers and soldiers.

Addressing voters, the writer asks: "What do you expect, o Egyptians, from the government and its candidates for the People's Assembly elections, but more disasters and calamities?"

POLICE ARREST SUPPORTERS OF ISLAMIST ALLIANCE CANDIDATES

The newspaper publishes an unattributed 200-word report on page 2 saying that the police arrested 32 supporters of Tariq Khalil, the Islamist Alliance candidate in Suez city. It also publishes an unattributed 100-word report on the same page saying that the police arrested 13 supporters of Dr. Akram al-Sha'ir, the Islamist Alliance candidate in Port Said. Police reportedly stormed al-Sha'ir's office and ransacked its contents.

PROFILES OF LABOR PARTY, ISLAMIST CANDIDATES PUBLISHED

On page 4 the newspaper publishes the profiles of 16 Labor Party and Islamist Alliance candidates. They are Ramadan Lutfi Ramadan, a candidate in the Cairo's al-Zaytun constituency; 'Abd-al-Mu'ti 'Umran, a candidate in Asyut; Muhammad Musa 'Amr, a candidate in al- Sharqiyah; Madthar Muhammad Ibrahim, a candidate in Asyut; Salah Abu-al-Fadl, a candidate in al-Buhayrah; Murtada Shamma, a candidate in Cairo's al-Sahil constituency; Muhammad Ahmad Abu-Ghadir, a candidate in Asyut; Bashir 'Uthman, a candidate in al-Buhayrah; Muhammad Jamal Hishmat, a candidate in al-Buhayrah; al-Batal 'Abd- al-Baqi, a candidate in Basyun al-Gharbiyah; Zakariya Muhammad Makhluf al-Janayni, a candidate in al-Buhayrah; al-Sayyid al-Bar'i, a candidate in al-Ibrahimiyah al-Sharqiyah; Hasan Muhammad Sulayman Hasan, a candidate in al-Sharqiyah; Shukri Muhammad 'Abd-al-'Aziz Shaltut, a candidate in al-Daqahliyah; Dr. 'Abd-al-Fattah Rizq, a candidate for Cairo's constituency of al-Ma'adi, and Dr. 'Abd-al- Hamid al-Ghazali, a candidate in al-Minya.

On its other pages the newspaper carries reports on the activities of Labor Party candidates in the various governorates. On the back page, it publishes the religious part of the Labor Party's electoral program with emphasis on the words "Comprehensive Islamist Reform."

WRITER REGRETS NONPARTICIPATION OF SHAYKHS IN ELECTIONS

On page 4, M. Badawi al-Shaykh writes a 400-word column in which he deplores the nonparticipation of "turbans" as candidates in the elections. He says: "Few

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turbans" are running to shoulder the responsibility and participate in drawing the nation's political and legislative map. He says he does not understand the point in a mufti urging the masses to cast their votes and telling them it is a sin not to, when only a few shaykhs are contesting the elections. He says the al-Azhar shaykhs must enter public life and engage in politics. He urges the Islamist Alliance supporters to be kind to those few shaykhs of the establishment who are running as candidates, "regardless of the differences" with them. This will be a chance to resolve the "religious conflict" between the shaykhs of the establishment and the shaykhs of the Popular Islamist Movement, he says.

Palestinian Affairs

U.S. Said To Outlaw New Palestinian Jihad Leader

MM0112114395 London AL-MAJALLAH in Arabic 26 Nov-2 Dec 95 p 19

[Unattributed report: "Secret Contacts Between the United States and the Jihad Movement Preceded al-Shaqaqi's Assassination"]

[FBIS Translated Text] AL-MAJALLAH has learned that the U.S. Administration recently conducted a series of secret contacts with a number of Palestinian Jihad movement officials with the aim of persuading them to put an end to their operations inside Israel and cooperate with the Palestinian Authority. The assassination of the movement's leader, Fathi al-Shaqaqi, in Malta put an end to these contacts. Following the selection of Dr. Ramadan 'Abdallah Shallah as the movement's secretary general to succeed al-Shaqaqi, the U.S. Administration hastened to issue a decision freezing all his accounts with U.S. banks as a preventive measure, reaffirming Washington's opposition to the movement, and denying any reports that might be leaked concerning the secret contacts with it. It should be mentioned that the movement's new secretary general was the director of the International Center for Islamic Studies at the University of Florida, before his dismissal following the discovery by the university of a link between the center and hard-line Islamic groups including the Palestinian Jihad movement. The U.S. measures included adding the new secretary general's name to the list of terrorists.

'Arafat Meets Foreign Officials, Plans Peres Meeting

JN3011153995 Jericho Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1215 GMT 30 Nov 95

[Report by 'Adil al-Za'nun in Gaza]

[FBIS Translated Text] The Presidency in Gaza was the scene of several important activities and meetings today. His Excellency President Yasir 'Arafat met with Grete Knudsen, Norwegian minister of foreign trade and shipping, at the Presidency in Gaza this afternoon.

Following the meeting, President 'Arafat described his talks with the Norwegian minister as positive and fruitful. He thanked the Norwegian Government and people for their aid to the Palestinian people in all areas. The fact that the Norwegian minister is accompanied by a delegation of Norwegian businessmen is significant, 'Arafat maintained. He asserted that their visit will yield fruitful results.

Commenting on the military siege clamped on the city of Janin in the aftermath of an incident that took place last night, President 'Arafat said: I hope that they [the Israelis] will not make up a big story about this incident, which reflected a mistake of theirs.

For her part, Knudsen, Norwegian minister of foreign trade and shipping, expressed her great admiration for the accomplishments scored in the National Authority areas, particularly in the field of reconstruction.

The Norwegian minister indicated that her talks with President 'Arafat addressed the launching of water and electricity projects in the National Authority areas. The talks also addressed Palestinian-Norwegian cooperation in the area of trade. The two sides discussed the establishment of joint ventures.

President 'Arafat also received Irish Ambassador in Cairo (Schwartz) at the Presidency. The talks addressed the latest developments in the peace process as well as Palestinian-Irish ties.

President 'Arafat also received a British workers delegation at the Presidency in Gaza this afternoon. The talks addressed what Britain can do to set up several projects in the National Authority areas, as well as the contributions it can make toward the achievement of development and economic stability in the region.

In a separate development, Marwan Kanafani, adviser to President 'Arafat and his official spokesman, stated that an agreement was reached to hold a meeting very soon between President 'Arafat and Israeli Prime Minister Shim'on Peres. Kanafani declined to reveal anything about the date and venue of this meeting. Kanafani noted that President 'Arafat is currently busy addressing issues related to the upcoming legislative elections and the implementation of the second stage of the Declaration of Principles, including redeployment and the expansion of the National Authority's jurisdiction to the rest of the West Bank areas.

Moreover, Kanafani pointed out that President 'Arafat will hold a mammoth meeting with representatives of

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political forces and nationalist figures at the Presidency in Gaza this evening to discuss the draft Legislative Electoral Law. The president will listen to the remarks of those who will take part in the meeting before endorsing the law, which is expected to be finally endorsed during the next meeting of the National Authority's Council of Ministers.

'Arafat Meets With Palestinian-Russian Committee

JN3011212095 Jericho Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1900 GMT 30 Nov 95

[FBIS Translated Text] President Yasir 'Arafat met with the Palestinian-Russian Joint Committee which held its first meeting in Gaza today under al-Tayyib 'Abd-al-Rahim, secretary general of the Palestinian Presidency, and Viktor Posuvalyuk, Russian deputy foreign minister.

Posuvalyuk handed President 'Arafat a message on the world day of solidarity with the Palestinian people. The message emphasizes Russia's support for just and comprehensive peace in the Middle East as well as its great interest in rendering the peace process a success. President 'Arafat thanked Moscow for its role in support of the Palestinian struggle and rights in its capacity as a cosponsor of the Middle East peace process.

The two sides stressed the need to consolidate bilateral relations on the economic, political, social, and cultural levels. The conferees agreed to hold the committee's coming meetings in Moscow.

Hamas To Attend Cabinet Session on Election Law

JN0112074995 Jericho Voice of Palestine in Arabic 0600 GMT 1 Dec 95

[FBIS Translated Text] President Yasir 'Arafat has reaffirmed the National Authority's concern to embody and strengthen national unity on the ground so as to build the edifice of the independent Palestinian state with Jerusalem as its capital. This came during his meeting in Gaza last night with representatives of the national and Islamic forces and movements to discuss the draft election law. The conferees elected 11 persons, representing the various forces and movements, including the Hamas Movement, in addition to Salim al-Za'nun, acting speaker of the Palestine National Council, to participate in the meeting of the Council of Ministers tomorrow, Saturday, to endorse the draft election law in its final formula.

The national and Islamic forces and movements expressed their concern to hold the legislative elections in an atmosphere of freedom and democracy being the first elections to be conducted in the homeland. They asserted the importance of holding the elections because they are considered an important turning point in the history of the Palestinian cause.

APF To Form Committees 'To Confront' Elections

JN3011180595 (Clandestine) Al-Quds Palestinian Arab Radio in Arabic 1730 GMT 30 Nov 95

[FBIS Translated Text] We received the following from our correspondent, the correspondent of AL-Quds Radio in Damascus:

The Secretariat of the Palestinian Alliance today took an advanced step regarding the internal relations of the Alliance of Palestinian Forces [APF].

The Central Command of the APF decided to establish the highest degree of coordination among all parties in the alliance in the occupied homeland and the diaspora by forming joint committees of all delegates of the APF in all areas to confront and boycott the election of the self-rule council and the head of the authority.

PFLP Denies Report on Participation in Elections

JN3011183395 (Clandestine) Al-Quds Palestinian Arab Radio in Arabic 1730 GMT 30 Nov 95

[FBIS Translated Text] A responsible source at the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine [PFLP] denied a report published by the newspaper AL-HAYAH AL-JADIDAH that cadres from the PFLP would participate in the 'Arafatist elections to be held in the next few months.

The source asserted to our correspondent that the newspaper's report was absolutely baseless and that the cadres of the PFLP abide by the decisions of the front's central institutions. The source noted that distortion campaigns and spreading poisons will not weaken the PFLP and its rejection of the administrative self-rule farce.

Security Command Meets; Kidnappers To Stand Trial

JN3011205295 Jericho Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1900 GMT 30 Nov 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Upon the instructions of President Yasir 'Arafat, the National Security Forces [NSF] Command in Janin held a meeting this evening under Staff Colonel Fayiz 'Arafat to discuss yesterday's kidnapping of two Israeli soldiers.

The conferees also discussed the mechanism to lift the current Israeli military siege of Janin as well as the impact of this siege on the city. It was agreed during the meeting to refer kidnappers Jamal Abu-al-Rubb and Ahmad Jamil (Samarakin) to justice. The

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two kidnappers were handed to the Palestinian public prosecutor.

Within this context, Colonel Wajih Abu-Gharbiyah, deputy commander of the NSF in Janin, said that after legal procedures against the two kidnappers are completed they will stand trial.

In a statement to our radio, Col. Abu-Gharbiyah added that the closure of Janin was an arbitrary action and a hasty reply conflicting with the concept of Palestinian-Israeli peace, especially since the National Authority quickly addressed this issue.

Abu-Gharbiyah said that the National Authority will try everyone who does not abide by its decisions regardless of the post he holds. He asserted that the meetings with the Israelis to address the repercussions of this incident will resume either tonight or tomorrow.

Arab-Israeli Talks

'Secret' Talks Said Held on Permanent Arrangement

TA3011184095 'Ofra NEQUDA in Hebrew November 95 p 13

[FBIS Translated Text] The secret team that conceived the Oslo accords has risen from the dead and is now engaged in so-called "academic" discussions about the permanent solution.

Just like then, in the snowy Norwegian capital, the current team consists of Dr. Ron Pundaq, Dr. Ya'ir Hirschfeld, and Minister Yosi Beilin. The talks, which are being held in Gaza, are based on the plan for a permanent arrangement drafted by Middle East expert Yosi Alpher. The sessions are also attended by leftist intellectuals, such as the author 'Amos 'Oz. The Palestinian side is represented by Dr. Khalil Tufakji, the Orient House official in charge of land in Judaea and Samaria, and Dr. Mahdi 'Abd-al-Hadi, director of PASSIA [Palestinian Academic Society for the Study of International Affairs].

According to Alpher's plan, 11 percent of the territory of Judaea and Samaria would be annexed to Israel, while the remaining vast majority would be handed over to the Palestinians. Some 70 percent of the Jews in Judaea and Samaria live in the areas that would be annexed. These would consist of the area in western Samaria near the Green Line, a banana-shaped strip stretching all the way to Ari'el, a strip along the Jerusalem-Bet Horon road, and the settlements of Ma'ale Adumim, Betar, Efrat, and the 'Etzyon Bloc. The Jordan Valley would not be annexed, but would be defined as "a vital military territory" for Israel. This outline coincides with the Oslo C map and the blueprint of the permanent arrangement as reflected in the last speeches made by the late prime minister and his remarks in a meeting with Memad representatives.

The plan proposes to transfer Arab villages and towns within the Green Line to Palestinian sovereignty "in exchange" for the Israeli annexation. No Jewish locations lie between these villages in the Sharon and Triangle area (al-Tayyibah, Jatt, Baqa al-Gharbiyyah, Barta'a, Ar'ara, Umm al-Fahm, etc.) and the western side of the Green Line. According to this arrangement, Jerusalem would and would not be partitioned. It would be transformed into metropolitan Jerusalem following the annexation of the villages of Abu-Dis and al-'Ayzariyah in the east and the neighborhoods of al-Ram and Dahiyat al-Barid in the north. These areas are included in Jordanian maps of Jerusalem and are consequently considered part of the city by Arabs, whereas some of them are not included in Israeli maps of Jerusalem. A Palestinian municipality would be established in Abu-Dis, and the city would be divided "demographically": Jews would fall under the Israeli municipality, while the Arabs would fall under the Palestinian one. Palestinian sources report on a proposal put to them to divide the Old City into boroughs, with the Muslim boroughs coming under the Palestinian municipality. The holy sites would be administered under joint sovereignty: Muslim sites under Jordanian-Palestinian sovereignty, Jewish sites under Israeli sovereignty, and Christian sites under Israeli-Christian sovereignty. The Palestinians are also demanding joint management of the 'Atarot airfield in northern Jerusalem.

As far as is known, this is the first time that an Israeli element has offered to have the Arabs break through the Green Line westward and annex Israeli territory. This proposal will most probably accelerate the Palestinization of Israeli Arabs and bring into question Israel's sovereignty in vast parts of the Negev and Galilee. Indeed, the Palestinians have already asked that all Israeli Arabs be granted Palestinian citizenship in exchange for their willingness to permit those settlers who are not included in the areas to be annexed to Israel to stay and be recognized as Israeli citizens.

According to Israeli sources, in the secret talks, the PLO has been offered its own pier in the port of Ashdod and its own terminal at Ben-Gurion Airport. The decision to lay a railway from Ashdod to the Erez terminal at a cost of 18 million shekels should be noted within this context. Gaza would be linked with a road to Judaea and Samaria, contrary to the position of Minister Peres who would like to build an elevated highway along dozens of kilometers to be used exclusively by the Palestinians.

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Commenting on the issue, "right-wing sources" said that the idea of transferring the Triangle area to Palestinian sovereignty appeals to them because it would considerably reduce the weight of Israeli Arabs in the Knesset elections.

It has been learned that Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres [as published] knows about the plans, but is pessimistic about their chances of success. In his opinion, the question of "the right of return" precludes a possible permanent solution in the foreseeable future. To go by the foreign minister's assessment, it seems that the Oslo C map is here to stay for many years, which would explain the left wing's willingness to pour millions into the building of bypass roads — a plan actually conceived by Ari'el Sharon — and Yasir 'Arafat's consent to it.

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Algeria

FIS Reacts Positively on Closing of Detention Camp

LD3011192495 Paris Radio France International in French 1730 GMT 30 Nov 95

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] In Algerian news, the Islamic Salvation Front [FIS] has just given a positive reaction to yesterday's announcement that the last internment camp in the Western Sahara has been closed. More than 600 inmates were released; most of them were FIS members or sympathizers. The closure is a step in the right direction, according to Abou Oussama, information director of the FIS overseas delegation led by Rabah Kebir. Abou Oussama spoke to our reporter, Laurent Chaffard.

[Begin Oussama recording] The Islamic Salvation Front greets this measure with satisfaction and considers that this action is one of the factors that could lead to an improved climate for fresh negotiations and a return to peace. However, I think that this measure is not enough; the government needs to pursue a series of measures that encourages all parties to sit around the same table to negotiate on all the problems that can find a solution to the Algerian crisis [sentence as heard]. The main thing is the release of the sheikhs, Abassi Madani and Ali Belhadj, who can then consult the different components of the party — in other words, the political activists who are in prison or who have been released — and, of course, the leaders of the Islamic Salvation Army. [end recording] [passage omitted]

FIS Founder on Support for Zeroual, FIS Leaders

LD3011233295 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in French 2130 GMT 30 Nov 95

[FBIS Translated Text] The guest of this Thursday's Forum program was Ahmed Merani, the founder of the former FIS [Islamic Salvation Front], which is today dissolved. Known for disagreeing with the 1991 strike and the then FIS leadership, Ahmed Merani during this program expressed his support for the speech Liamine Zeroual made on Monday [27 November] when he was sworn in as president of the Republic:

[Begin Merani recording] The speech is very, very important, and very, very wise, as Mr. Liamine Zeroual has clearly understood the crisis, and he is beginning to see how he will go about settling this crisis. Because it is true that this is a very, very complicated crisis. Many people have been caught up in it, and have found that they are sought after, as terrorists. We must try to win back as many of these people as we can.

There are the others whose aim is to destroy the Algerian state, to attack the people, to destroy the country. There are other ways of controlling these people and they must be used.

I think that the speech was very wise and that he is going in a good direction. [end recording]

Ahmed Merani is very blunt about the responsibility of Abassi Madani and Ali Belhaj for the events that have cast a shadow over Algeria for four years:

[Begin Merani recording] These people are in the process of committing a crime in the name of religion and in the name of the FIS. At the moment all Algerians know that these people have no connection with Islam.

Given that, is there a possibility for them to play a political role in the future? I think that politically they are dead, because I would not like to be in the place of Abassi Madani, Ali Belhaj or any of the other founders.

When this violence has ended what will they say to the hundreds of thousands of orphans when they ask these leader the question: Why is my daddy dead? I would not like to be in their place when tens of thousands of widows ask them the question: Why is my husband dead? Any I would not like to be in their place when the Algerian people ask them: Why? What did I do to spend four or more years living in hell? What will they answer?

What I can tell them is that they should set themselves apart [editing of recording audible here] this part of the violence so that the people may be able to find peace, and that they should withdraw. Perhaps the Algerian people will have no hatred. [end recording]

Press Reports Successes in War Against GIA

LD3011144695 Paris Radio France International in French 1230 GMT 30 Nov 95

[FBIS Translated Text] The regional press in Constantine [eastern Algeria] reports this morning that one of the leaders of the Armed Islamic Group [GIA] in Jijel, in the east of the country, is said to have been killed yesterday in the course of a security operation. Five other members of the GIA also died in the incident, according to the press report, which added that the GIA commando unit had been tracked down and surrounded by a local self-defense group, who then called in the army.

In Algiers, five presumed Islamists were killed yesterday in the Casbah district. According to the daily newspaper LA TRIBUNE, one of the leaders of the GIA, who goes by the nickname Napoli, might be among the dead.

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Minister Condemns Attack on Lithuanian Sailors

LD3011173795 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 1700 GMT 30 Nov 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Interior Minister Mostafa Benmansour has condemned, in the name of the Algerian Government, the cowardly attack against three guests of Algeria.

In a statement made public today following the attack against three Lithuanian seamen, in which two were killed and the third was injured, the interior minister stressed that the perpetrators of this crime would severely be punished in accordance with the law of the Algerian state.

Security Forces Kill 5 'Criminals' in Algiers

LD3011174895 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 1700 GMT 30 Nov 95

[FBIS Translated Text] In a statement released today [30 November], the security services announced that the security forces yesterday killed five criminals and wounded three others in the Casba district in Algiers.

The source added that the operation was launched on the basis of information received by the security forces from residents. A quantity of weapons — two automatic pistols, ammunition, and knives — was seized.

Egypt

Mubarak Discusses Domestic, Foreign Issues

NC2911141195 Cairo ESC Television in Arabic 2035 GMT 28 Nov 95

[Interview with President Husni Mubarak by Mufid Fawzi in Cairo; date not given; from the "City's Talk" program — recorded]

[FBIS Translated Text] [Fawzi] Mr. President, many happy returns for Egypt, a country that you always hold in your mind and heart, a country that is kind with its people, genuine with its values, generous with its land, and deep-rooted with its history. You are piloting the aircraft of the homeland perceptively and peacefully, irrespective of whatever clouds or storms you may encounter. Mr. President, I convey to you the warmth of the Egyptian street in this election battle, which is being waged under the shadow of a democracy you have always been eager to maintain since you assumed power. Some questions are being raised on the Egyptian street, and, in some occasions, cards are being shuffled. The public wants to hear decisive words from the captain about these issues so that the picture can be clear and definitive. And I remember what I told you; namely, that Egypt is above all parties and all heads. One of these issues over which, I may say, there is a shuffle of cards, is the amendment of the Constitution. Is this a pressing issue? Permit met to be more frank and ask: What fears and apprehensions does the opening of the file of the Constitution entail?

[Mubarak] First, it is good that you asked me this question, which is always raised whenever elections are held. People do not talk about it when there are no elections. But when the issue was raised for the first time, I spoke with people in many parties. They all believe that this is not the time for [discussing] the Constitution. What are the dangers? Now, I am interested in development, economic reform, infrastructure, and in finding jobs for the limited-income people. We are interested in many such things. If I open the door to the question of the Constitution now, I will occupy myself for one or two years on an issue that absolutely has no priority at present. We have priorities. If I am working for the good of the people, then I must set priorities. My priority is to take care of people's living conditions and find jobs for them. If we start playing with the Constitution, we will occupy ourselves for one, two, or maybe three years and ignore our main job; namely, citizen's affairs. And then, what to do with the Constitution? Laborers and peasants are granted 50 percent [of the People's Assembly seats]. All those who object to this are able ones. They say, cancel the 50 percent. They are all able. The laborers and peasants constitute a majority of the people. Those who do not know this must know it very well. No one can cancel this. I [word indistinct] for the 50 percent of laborers and peasants, although some will not like it. But this is a fact. They say that there is no Constitution in the world that provides for something like this. But this was here, and the majority of our people are like this.

And they raise the issue of the free-of-charge education. They do not want this; they want us to start attacking each other through sharp rhetoric. But at the end, we have a silent majority. If we cancel the 50 percent allocated for peasants and laborers or abolish the free-of-charge education system... [pauses] I will not do it, because it is my responsibility to look after people's interests and to make sure that the poor class gets an education and a better standard of living. The Constitution has absolutely no priority for me to start amending it. Every one must know the dangers of this. It endangers many things. It incites the classes of the people against each other.

[Fawzi] What does that mean, sir?

[Mubarak] When we cancel the seats of the peasants and laborers, they will revolt against the able ones. We do not have time for this now. The overwhelming majority of the people are laborers and peasants; we are all the

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children of laborers and peasants. We were not born with silver spoons in our mouths.

[Fawzi] Another issue that is usually raised is the view held by some people that making peace is treason.

[Mubarak] O God, does this mean also that economic development is treason? Is spending money to buy weapons and to shed blood better than economic development, job creation, and new housing for the citizens? Furthermore, no one can criticize a just peace. Take Germany and France, for example. During World War II, Hitler attacked France and perpetrated many excesses. Did not all this happen? Now the Germans and the French are cooperating on economic development issues and have the best possible relations. No enemy remains an enemy forever. Until when should we continue spending money on war? Why do we spend money on war? Isn't it to regain our territories? We have regained all our territories, therefore, I must make peace to provide a dignified life for the citizens. Those who describe peace as treason are contradicting themselves. But if the enemy is inclined toward peace, do thou also incline toward peace, and trust in God. [Koranic verse]

[Fawzi] What can you tell us about the issue raised about your chairmanship of the National Democratic Party [NDP] and the calls made to you to give up your leadership of the party during the elections?

[Mubarak] What do you want me to say? I heard one political party leader say that the president must give up the NDP leadership for even one week or for two days during the elections. What does this mean? Will a miracle happen during those two days? I am not joining the election campaign anyway. I intentionally avoided touring any governorates during the campaign. But look at the world. Must we be different from the rest of the world? In the United States, President Clinton is a democrat. Has he given up the Democratic Party? Major is leader of the British Conservative Party. Has he given up this party's leadership? The same is true of Jacques Chirac, Helmut Kohl, the Italian president, and the Turkish president. Must we begin a new custom? Although I am the NDP leader, I am also president of all Egyptians. I do not discriminate against them at all. All I do is maintain the country's stability and cohesion as best I can. I do not know the objectives of those who make this call. Am I working against the country's interests? My sole concern is the citizens' good. Do I work against the political parties or discriminate against them? Absolutely not. If I leave the party leadership, it will draw its strength from itself. Any party that comes to power will draw its strength from. [sentence as heard] Let's talk frankly now. Our elections are being contested by individual candidates. The political parties still need a very long time to contest the elections on the basis of party tickets. This does not mean that all candidates have no party affiliations. Some do, but the majority still do not have no any party affiliations. Nevertheless, the elections are held on the basis of individual candidates. No candidate is barred from running. There is no discrimination as you can see.

[Fawzi] What about the current calls to abolish the Emergency Law?

[Mubarak] Why do we enforce the Emergency Law? It has provisions that enable me to close down any newspaper, use censorship, abolish. [sentence as heard] It enables me to do many things but I wish to safeguard democracy, maintain press freedoms, and give the people the opportunity to train themselves in the use of democracy and understand its meaning. I only wish to protect public security. I use the Emergency Law only to maintain stability against terrorism and those who manipulate the people's livelihoods. Apart from these two areas, I do not use the Emergency Law at all. Furthermore it is a weak law. It only helps me to expedite procedures and maintain public security. Look at what President Clinton did after the World Trade Center and the Oklahoma City bombings. He proposed a bill that gave the police extensive powers. Take Britain for example. The home secretary has great powers. He can order the detention of people for six months, one year, or two years without judicial supervision. France has passed a new law to prosecute criminals. It did this to bolster its fight against terrorism. All those laws are permanent laws. Our Emergency Law is renewed periodically and the renewal needs approval. It is not a permanent law. In France they pursue terrorists to a distance of 35 km, or something like that, outside their borders. Germany has a very strong antiterrorism law. The Emergency Law that we use is a modest law that needs to be periodically renewed. I use it to protect the people's security and stability and make economic development possible.

[Fawzi] Another issue, Your Excellency, is the profiting through religion. Allow me to frankly relay this to you: Some people are claiming that several cases pertaining to the terrorist groups have been brought to court only as a political ploy to deprive the defendants involved in those cases of the opportunity to contest the elections.

[Mubarak] What do you expect them to say? Has anyone prevented them from contesting the elections as individual candidates? Not at all. Count how many candidates there are and compare their number with the number of NDP candidates. Around 4,000 candidates are contesting some 400 seats. The court cases they are talking about have been in the courts for a year or

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two. We cannot abandon or delay those cases because the procedures have already gone too far. At any rate, these cases have prevented no one from running in the elections. Furthermore, I am not against anyone. I am only against those who break the law and seek to undermine the citizens' security and the country's stability. This is a responsibility and a trust that I must fulfill. We fear no one but God. Additionally, I do not approve of using court procedures as a political ploy. There are other methods to use if I wished to use them. I am laying down the foundations of the future. I do not employ the Emergency Law against political opponents, not even those who profit through religion. The people will decide anyhow. I do not prevent anyone or the followers of any political stream from contesting the elections. I bar no one.

[Fawzi] This a question about a specific matter in the Constitution. Some people say that some of its articles should be amended. The Constitution has long maintained that the public sector is a pillar of the economy and that Egypt is a socialist country. I do not know what you think of these assertions now.

[Mubarak] All right, the Constitution declares that the public sector is a pillar of the economy. Nevertheless, in the days of President 'Abd-al-Nasir there were other sectors also: the private sector and the joint sector. The steel industry for example offered shares to the public. I myself bought 40 shares in this industry in the 1950's. The ceramics industry was jointly owned by the state and the private sector. The Alexandria Textile Company was jointly owned by Arabs and foreigners. The Constitution never barred the private sector or barred foreign investors. Pluralism was developed under this Constitution. The economic reform program was undertaken under this Constitution. The private sector is operating under the aegis of this Constitution. Some people have brought lawsuits to amend the Constitution on this point, but the Constitutional Court turned them down because the Constitution does not bar private enterprise.

[Fawzi] Mr. President, I must admit that I will honestly raise every issue on my mind. Why are civilian suspects referred to military courts?

[Mubarak] Look, I never resorted to military courts except under very difficult circumstances. There is terrorism here. In civil courts, judges have more cases than they can handle. When lawyers ask for a postponement of a case, they get not a week or two, but perhaps two months, as the judge's schedule permits. And then the case is deferred once again for another two months. The court continues to examine the case for three or four years, as happened with Rif'at al-Mahjub's [assassination] case. With the existing terrorism, this slow justice endangers the people.

I want to say something else: Military courts do not apply a military law on civilians; they apply the criminal procedure law that the ordinary courts apply. No military law is applied on the accused.

In the currently raised [Muslim Brotherhood] case, the defendants brought lawyers from Turkey and other countries, but these could not direct a single accusation to the court measures and guarantees. Some of them said that these measures and guarantees are being respected without any problem. All that we want is not to leave these cases drag on for five or six years, so much so that they tell those whom they assign to carry out terrorist operations: Do not worry; these are political cases and no sentences will be carried out; this is only temporary and will be canceled. This encourages others to get involved in terrorism. I am responsible for the people. I am nationally and constitutionally responsible for protecting and looking after the people. I referred them to military courts for speedy measures and rulings so that every criminal can be deterred. If we leave things as they are...[pauses] See what happened to tourism. What is tourism? Tourism means people having jobs and opening houses. I once visited Luxor and Aswan and found people up in arms. They said: Get these people who attack tourists here and we will deal with them. This is because they lost their means of living. Those who worked on ships and in hotels found the ships and hotels they were working for empty. Where would they get their salaries from? They lost their jobs. Boutique shops, camel guides in streets, and everyone stopped working. This caused much annoyance. Homes were being closed because of terrorism. Can I remain silent as a head of state? Can the executive power stand looking as spectator? We must take measures. We cannot sacrifice the whole people for the sake of a small group.

[Fawzi] I must admit to you that at earlier times I could not pose this amount of questions, and so frankly, to rulers. You must have a philosophy and a viewpoint for allowing the other opinion to express itself. What is this philosophy?

[Mubarak] Do you mean democracy?

[Fawzi] I am for freedoms, but responsible ones. I am for democracy, and I am very patient. For a long time, citizens did not dare to open their mouths. I am for the freedom of press, but the responsible freedom that hurts no citizen and creates no problem with the friendly counties that help us in our times of need. I am very patient in this respect. I grant freedoms; there is a freedom of expression. This freedom has

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its advantage: it uncovers many mistakes which I may not see for myself. Perhaps this freedom occasionally results in wrong practices, but generally, this freedom is a sort of power watching the executive authority and the opportunists. I, therefore, support this to the largest extent.

[Fawzi] Mr. President, you are encouraging me to ask frank questions.

[Mubarak] I will continue to encourage you to do that. Ask.

[Fawzi] It is rumored that the government has certain economic measures up its sleeve that it plans to implement after the elections. These are said to include new taxes and higher service costs. The people who say this claim that anything the government says to the contrary is merely part of the election campaign.

[Mubarak] I want to tell you something. Why would we hide anything from the people? If I wanted to do something like this, I would tell the people about it. When I embarked on the economic reform program, I made a speech about the issue during the most difficult phase of the program in 1990 or 1991. I spoke frankly to the people. I always explain things clearly to the public. I do not act behind the scenes. It is neither my custom to do this nor does it serve the people's interests. There is no room for new taxes. Had we wanted to impose new taxes, we would have included them in the budget. There can be no taxes without a law. How can we hide them and bring them out after the elections? Will I begin the new parliamentary term with a bill for new taxes? About the rumored higher services costs, this is the first time I have heard about it. Some newspapers say this will happen, but I tell you there will be no price increases nor any new burdens on the citizens. I am always on the citizens' side as much as I can. I try to find a means of living for them, not impose new burdens on them. The budget deficit during the economic reform process has been reduced by 1.5 or 2 percent. The United States has a huge budget deficit. You have undoubtedly heard about the problem facing President Clinton because of this deficit. We have heard about the problem in France, the so-called black Friday. He [not further specified] imposed new taxes and told them that there was no alternative. Of course no citizen likes to pay higher taxes. None of us likes to pay taxes. Taxes are like a bogeyman. No one wants to pay. We have people here, just as in other countries, who try to evade paying taxes. Still, to impose new taxes, you need a new law. If I want to raise the prices, I will tell the citizens. There is no room to do something like this either before or after the elections.

[Fawzi] Mr. President, you once remarked to me that you are a patient person. I would like to ask you: Has being ruler taught you patience and given you calm nerves or is this your nature to begin with?

[Mubarak] I think it is my nature. My experience in the Armed Forces made me very patient and taught me to have calm nerves. I took part in many military actions. I could not afford then to make hasty decisions. A patient person must examine all aspects of the issue before making any decision. This is what I learned during my military service.

[Fawzi] Your excellency, numbers have a significant language of their own. Figures represent facts. The NDP has fielded about 444 candidates in 220 constituencies. All the other parties, big and small, have fielded comparative numbers of candidates. There are also around 2,700-3,000 independent candidates. I would like your assessment of these numbers' significance to the democratic process.

[Mubarak] I would like to say something. I have always called on all political parties to contest the elections. Previously, they refused. Some candidates used to run as independents although their own parties refused to participate. This is the first time that around 4,000 candidates are participating. A large number of them, from all the parties, not only the NDP, joined the election campaign against their parties' wishes. This shows that party affiliation is still not a strong factor among the citizens. Many who are not nominated by their party, decide to run as independents anyway. If they win, they rejoin their party. This process shows that party affiliation is still not very well developed. This applies to all parties. Another thing: The large number of candidates proves that we are expanding the democratic base. We are not preventing anyone from contesting the elections. We have not used any issue, like the case of the extremists mentioned above, to prevent the citizens from participating in the elections. As long as there is no legal cause to bar him, anyone can run. No one can prevent him. We have a rule of law here. If anyone tries to prevent a candidate from running, he will go to court and get a court ruling allowing him to run. We must respect court rulings. We do this. Concerning earlier elections, the parties refused to join them. We organized a national dialogue conference. Their first demand was to hold elections by party tickets, but at the end of the conference they demanded elections on the basis of individual candidacy. They imagined that I would contradict them and say that I preferred party tickets. Such attitudes harm the national interest. We are not playing games here. I pointed out that the law provides for individual candidates. I did not change it. Later when the elections drew near, they claimed that

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they wanted party tickets. What is this? Should we open the door or close it? The people say: We want elections on the basis of individual candidacy. Many made this demand. We are used to this system. Elections by party tickets are very difficult. In any party, who will head the list and who will be at the bottom? They will quarrel over their slots in the list, try to enter the lists of other parties, or try to put their own relatives on the list. It is a very difficult process. Individual candidacies are the normal thing for our country. We are used to it.

[Fawzi] Mr. President, there are few female candidates contesting the elections.

[Mubarak] You mean women?

[Fawzi] Yes. This applies to female candidates from the NDP and the other parties. Yet women make up half the nation. In your opinion, how can the woman have real political representation in line with her role in society?

[Mubarak] I want to tell you something.

[Fawzi] Please.

[Mubarak] From the bottom of my heart I wish that women would achieve 50 percent representation. I would be very pleased if we could achieve this percentage. But we have customs, habits, and particular ethics. In foreign states — the civilized and European countries — woman have entered all walks of life. They makes speeches, fights, and attends huge meetings. There is great awareness in these countries. Nevertheless, I will tell you about the representation of women in most democratic countries. In the United States, which we imitate, but cannot match economically or otherwise, women's representation in the House of Representatives is 10.8 percent. The House of Representatives has 495 members, 47 of them women, who fight in the street and prepare for two years ahead of the elections. Women's representation in the 100-member Senate is 8 percent. This is America —10 and 8 percent.

In Britain, the House of Commons consists of 651 members. Women's representation in the House is 9.7 percent. Yet, women represent half the society there.

In France, there is the National Assembly and the Senate. Women's representation in the National Assembly is 5.2 percent. Their representation in the Senate is 5.6 percent.

Because of our traditions and customs, when you ask a woman, she says she will vote for a man, who will work for us and get things done. Elsewhere, women can do anything. But this is our people's way. What is the percentage of female representation in Egypt? In the People's Assembly, it is 2 percent. In the Consultative Council, it is 4.6 percent. We are close to France. The issue is one of awareness and tradition. Can the women in Upper Egypt enter the battleground, fight, make speeches, and hear curses and harsh criticism? The world outside can criticize a woman and say something about her that we cannot say about her, even if it is true. There is a big difference. Despite all this, I am trying my best to appoint women within the limits of the Constitution. When the People's Assembly appoints 10 women, I try my best to choose women from the Coptic community. I have appointed 12 women to the Consultative Council. I do what I can. I am not free to appoint women to the Consultative Council. I am restricted by several factors that I must consider.

[Fawzi] We hear there will be change after the elections for the new People's Assembly...

[Mubarak, interrupting] You mean a new government?

[Fawzi] A new government with the new People's Assembly in the sense that the elections are a pause in preparation for change, not change for the sake of change, but for bringing new blood into the executive authority. What do you say?

[Mubarak] I want to answer this. First, the government is changed only when a president is elected. The government and the governors will then resign. The president might ask the government to remain in office until he forms a new one or he might keep that government. But there is no such thing when there are People's Assembly elections. Neither the Constitution nor any other law demands change. Someone told me: Let the government resign and then reappoint it. I told him: Do you want me to play games? I do not have the time to waste my time. If we do not have real stability, how can we deal with the people's problems? The ordinary citizen is my whole purpose in changing the government or ministers. I will oppose anything that might harm the simple citizen, who is sweating and working hard to earn a livelihood. I am terribly sensitive toward this issue. I have repeatedly said that too many changes do not lead to stability. Look at what happened to us between the forties and the October 1973 war. Why was there a revolution? Because there was no stable government. Each government lasted three or four months. Why so? Were they dealing with citizens' interests? They were preoccupied with appointing this or that minister. Let us look at the governments since the time of King Fu'ad so that I can be clear and so as to let the citizen know that I have no interest in removing a minister or prime minister for some ulterior motive. My objective is Egypt and the people. As long as you are producing, I salute you. These are the criteria. If you do not produce to serve the citizens, then I tell you: Thank you, good bye.

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Despite this, 101 ministers were changed under my presidency. I change a minister when he cannot produce or if he breaks the law. Look at King Fu'ad. He reigned for 14 years. He changed 17 governments, that is, a government in under a year. King Faruq reigned 16 years and had 25 governments. I believe the revolution would not have taken place had the country been stable and had development been progressing. After the revolution, President Jamal 'Abd-al-Nasir ruled 17 years and changed 16 governments. The circumstances of the change were different. President al-Sadat ruled for 11 years and changed 16 governments. We had the October war and the development plans. I saw all this instability affecting citizens. I have been president 14 years and have had only eight governments. But I have changed 101 ministers. Under al-Sadat, 202 ministers were changed. Under 'Abd-al-Nasir, 144 were changed. Those I change are either incapable, not well qualified, or demonstrate low productivity. Every minister now in the government is hard working. Every minister is in his office every morning. I call them early in the morning and I call them at night. Every minister now knows everything in the country that concerns his ministry.

Friendship or kinship hold no sway with me. My main objective is the interests of the citizen, the toiling classes, the simple classes, and the classes I must take care of. They are my first priority. I employ people to serve the ordinary people's interest. It is the ordinary people who are in need.

[Fawzi] Your Excellency, there is a belief that terrorism has been contained. Undoubtedly, it has been contained as a result of your decisive confrontation and the alertness of Egyptian security men. But terrorism's leaders just keep on popping up — a conspiracy in Addis Ababa, a cache of weapons, the bombing of an embassy, or an attempt to blow up a neighborhood. Very clearly, where do we stand now in terms of stability, which all Egyptians demand?

[Mubarak] Look, you mentioned the Emergency Law. I told you I use the Emergency Law for the sake of stability. You spoke about amending the Constitution and I told you this is not the right time, again for the sake of stability. Everything I do is for the sake of stability, so that I can help the people to make a living and find a source of income. If I were to neglect terrorism, this would gravely harm the ordinary citizen, who may know nothing of what terrorism means. He would not be able to make a living. Tourism would vanish, development would vanish, and the investors would collect their money and flee. If terrorism is not dealt with firmly, all the private businessmen working here will take their money abroad. You can imagine what will happen to the 13 new cities and the approximately 12 industrial zones, which are buzzing with activity and offering jobs to all these workers. Suddenly, they will find money being smuggled abroad, factories closing, and they will be out in the street. What can we do about them? What can I do to them? They will turn into criminals, for they need to survive. They will break into homes and rob them. And who would they rob? People who cannot making a living. The rich will flee and take the money abroad. The country will turn into a ghost country. As for terrorism, I salute the security men in this regard. They are very alert and all credit to them, first, for confronting this kind of terrorism, although it is an international phenomenon. It is not an Egyptian phenomenon. You have seen it taking place in Riyadh against the Americans, in America, England, France, Turkey, India, Pakistan, and elsewhere. Terrorism will leave no one in peace. Unless countries get together to resist terrorism and not shelter criminals, any country that has ever hosted them will regret what it has done. We are in contact with every country. Praise be to God, we have very active security agencies. We discover the...[pauses] The recent operation [against the Egyptian Embassy in Islamabad] was known to the security agencies for some time. They were chasing leads. They are very active and arrest whoever commits a crime, even if it takes time. So we are working to consolidate stability for the sake of the people. If there is no stability, there will be no life for those on low incomes. They will be unable to afford to live or to find medical treatment. We will have no income, our resources will diminish, we will be unable to provide education or medical services, and we will be unable to renovate our water and electricity networks. Everyone must understand the gravity of this issue. Anyone who commits a terrorist act — if he is an Egyptian — does not care about his country or people. And the same is true if he is from another Arab country. He cares about himself alone. They claim they want to impose God's law. What law are we following then? It is all excuses.

[Fawzi] Mr. President, I wanted to ask you, when you returned safely from Addis Ababa following the sinful, treacherous, and abortive attempt and looked out the window of the plane and saw the homeland, what came into your mind? How did you feel?

[Mubarak] Some people ask: How could it be that the president was not shaken by such an incident. When I was in Addis Ababa after the incident, I was not shaken at all. I took it very calmly, so calmly that the minister who was sitting next to me in the car later told a head of state how surprised he was to see President Mubarak speaking calmly. He added: The president told the driver to turn back. He did not lose his temper. He boarded the plane as if nothing had happened. Thank God, I have

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strong nerves. Upon my return, I thought: How great our country is. When I reached Egyptian airspace I felt peace of mind. What the people did for me strengthened me and raised my morale. I was moved by the people's reaction following this incident. I promise citizens to do everything I can for their sake. I have nothing personal to gain at all. I have no personal goals.

My goal is to help the people. When I returned home [from Addis Ababa], the first thing I said was that there would be no infringement of democracy or freedom. Democracy must continue because this is in the people's interest. I will continue to work in this direction. I will not change this direction, no matter what.

[Fawzi] Mr. President, people are saying that the conflict will be over water. Some reiterate that we live on a narrow strip on the banks of the Nile, representing 5 percent of the total area of Egypt. They ask what prevents us from cultivating more desert.

[Mubarak] Brother, we have said a thousand times that taxes must be paid and the necessary research must be carried out. Someone told me: Let us cultivate 1 million feddans of desert land. First, these 1 million feddans need money. The state's revenue is limited. I spend here and there. I have a deficit. Second, there is a horrible population increase. Third, all the water we have — whether Nile water or underground water sourced in the Nile — cannot cultivate more than 2.5 million feddans. In addition to the original cultivable land, we have cultivated 1.5 million more feddans. We are cultivating more land but the people do not know this.

I fly over Alexandria every summer. In 1982, west and east of the desert highway was a desert. In 1983, 1984, and 1985 the land was getting greener. Now cultivation has expanded to 30 km west of the desert highway. Eastward, the land between the Nile and the desert highway is fully cultivated. The cultivated land has increased by 1.5 million feddans. We can cultivate an additional 2.5 million feddans. Then we will have no water for any more cultivation.

So we must rationalize the use of water so that we can cultivate more. We reclaim land and give it to graduates. We do everything according to how much water is available. We try to rationalize the use of water. The state is doing its job. The state has huge tasks before it. The burden on ministers and the government is heavy. No minister shows off. He looks after the people's interest.

[Fawzi] Mr. President, undoubtedly, you have accomplished much.

[Mubarak] I have accomplished nothing; the people have.

[Fawzi] It is a great thing that you admit that the people have accomplished this. I remember your remarks in an interview with Ibrahim Nafi' [chief editor of AL-AHRAM]. You told him: I have inherited a legacy of problems. Mr. President, what achievement do you want us to remember? What achievement do you consider a bulwark for moving on?

[Mubarak] Look, I work for Egypt's future. We are working for Egypt in the next century. I work for the future. The development of Sinai needs 75 billion [currency not specified]. We are working in several spheres for Egypt's future. We want to build a strong Egypt. We want to put Egypt on the world map. If we do not work hard, Egypt will be a forgotten state, like other states no one hears about. We are working for Egypt's future.

[Fawzi] Mr. President, your answers are all in figures. What do these figures mean to you?

[Mubarak] With these figures, I can check if there has been development, progress, and construction to help the coming generations. I check these figures constantly. The government does the same thing. Other bodies monitor the government. The press follows up this issue. There is a Central Statistics Bureau. I read what the press says and I ask questions. I like to ascertain that the figures are correct. I do not want imaginary figures. I collect figures from various sources. If I see a discrepancy, I speak up and ask why. The whole government is now committed to correct figures. The figures show we are making progress.

[Fawzi] Mr. President, the youth are always your main concern. I know this. But since we are now engaged in a dialogue, [words indistinct]. I want to discuss youth and housing outside Cairo. Some say modern societies are only built for the well-to-do. I will open my heart more.

[Mubarak] Open.

[Fawzi] Does the state sell land?

[Mubarak] If the state sells land — I say "if" so that no one will say that the president has confirmed this — it does so for the benefit of the poorer class. I sell land in any new community. We sell...[pause] I have nothing to do with those who seize state land; this is a completely different issue, one we resist. We sell some land to the well-to-do, who get no reductions. They buy at cost price and a bit more. They buy the land. They pay all the expenses to improve the land, such as utilities

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and other services. I use the money from the sale of the land to build for the poor.

The project — I have mentioned it on television, a project being carried out by the reconstruction minister in the new towns — shows that we are building different types of houses. We have stopped building houses like those built in communist states. We are building beautiful houses in Shaykh Zayid city. The utilities are good. I sell the houses to the youth for less than I sell to the rich. There are rich, middle-class, and poor people in any housing community.

[Fawzi] Certainly.

[Mubarak] This is because the rich will make us help the poor. If you put all the poor together, where will I find money for them. We have collected 500 million pounds from the land sold to well-to-do people. When I sell the houses to the youth, the land is free of charge. The utilities are free of charge. Moreover, the house sells for 45,000 pounds. The government pays 10,000 pounds from the money collected from the well-to-do. The government shoulders all the expenses for the utilities but lets the well-to-do pay their share. The poor do not pay for the land or for the utilities. We arrange a loan for the poor from the housing bank repayable over 30 years at low interest. We do not trade in land.

[Fawzi] Mr. President, I have seen the villages rebuilt after the earthquakes and floods on television. What are your feelings?

[Mubarak] I want to tell you something.

[Fawzi] Please.

[Mubarak] After the earthquake in Asyut...

[Fawzi, interrupting] Suhaj.

[Mubarak] I visited our brothers and sons in tents. It was a tragedy. Their houses were made of mud. Now they have removed them. We paid great attention to rebuilding their houses. No state, except the rich Gulf states, can undertake this task. In America and elsewhere, they tell you: Borrow from the bank and build.

Once, a U.S. President asked me: Where did you find these houses? I told him: We built them.

The wealthy are helping to rebuild villages damaged by flood. The state helped as much as it could and the Red Crescent went into action. I went to the handover of two or three villages. I was very pleased. I saw the children — whom I had seen in Asyut living in tents — in new houses. The people were very happy. How much did this cost? We tried to do everything we could and borrowed here and there. After the earthquake we built 50,000 housing units and they cost us 755 million pounds. After the flood we built 11,000 units at a cost of 140 million pounds. This was not expected. It all came from God. But it was our responsibility as a state. These were the ordinary classes; they could not build a house, or, if they could, the house would have been damaged by other floods. Modern villages were built for them. I would build many modern villages if I had the resources. But there are not enough resources.

[Fawzi] Did you feel the earthquake in your area. When you felt it, did you immediately make a telephone call?

[Mubarak] I was in bed. I normally get up at 0600, so I was lying awake in bed. I saw the bed shaking and thought my son had sat down on the edge of the bed. I saw the bedroom chandelier swinging. Then my son and his wife entered the room. They said: Did you feel it? I told them I thought they were shaking something. I got out of bed and switched on the "Good Morning" program on television. Jokes were made about the earthquake, which the program reported, like this one: I switched the car on and the engine started. I laughed a lot. Another joke was: I went to ride the metro but it did not leave the station. The Egyptians are humorous. All the departments started work even before I contacted them. We had learned a lesson from the past. All I had to do was ask officials what they had done and what information they had received, such as the collapse of a house in al-'Arish and so on. Thank God there were no losses worth mentioning. Probably most of the houses that collapsed were due to be demolished. Thank God they collapsed with no loss of life. The earthquake's epicenter was in the Red Sea, the Gulf of 'Aqaba. Thank God. We need no more burdens.

[Fawzi] Mr. President, you always say people forget. What I want to know is this: Is it the majority that does not forget or the minority?

[Mubarak] God created us so. If someone does not forget, or if a relative dies and you do not forget, then you will keep on grieving. Forgetfulness is a blessing. The people need to be reminded. There are those who distort information and try to interpret deeds differently. I remind our brother citizens and sons that what the Egyptian people have achieved recently — and I say the people, not Husni Mubarak, for it is the people who have worked and planned and their deputies who have reviewed and debated — is unknown since the time of Muhammad 'Ali [early 19th century ruler]. Some might say something different. But with all due respect, each ruler had his own circumstances. The revolution built something. But then we had the setback of 1967, the October war, and our budget was stretched to the limit.

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Now we come to what we have achieved. I will not discuss the infrastructure. Some say the infrastructure does not give quick returns. The infrastructure is the key to everything we have. Without it, none of the new cities would exist, no factory would have been built, no land would have been reclaimed, because all this needs water, electricity, and telephones. Let us see how many factories we have built. You mentioned Muhammad 'Ali. In 1981 we had 1,794 factories, big and small. By the end of 1994 we had some 23,900 registered factories. Before that, we had approximately 1,800 factories. Now we have approximately 24,000 factories. This means an increase of 22,000 factories in 13 years. And 1,025 more factories are being built. We added more than 22,000 to the 1,800 factories we had. Imagine how much work was done. All this is the people's money, the able people's money. This means the banks' money has been used. It means jobs for the people, be they laborers, white-collar workers, or others on various other levels. It is a source of income for the people to make a living and survive. This is the infrastructure. So the achievements of those 13 or 14 years are unprecedented. I do not want to repeat what we have achieved in electricity and telephones, half of which were out of order. Now we have almost 4 million telephone lines, precisely 3.7 million lines. International telephone calls are easy to make and faxes are accessible.

[Fawzi] Mr. President, what does freedom of expression mean to you?

[Mubarak] Actually it means a lot. Freedom of expression means you can speak up, criticize, and write what you want, as long as it is not against the law. They criticize. You see the criticism, which sometimes exceeds the limit. There is even criticism of the president and others, but I disregard it. Why? Because I do not want the people to fear. I want the people to get used to judging for themselves when things go beyond the limits of courtesy. But I do not want to resort to measures, because I might be forced to take (?tough) measures. I am wholeheartedly for freedom of the press, but it must be a responsible freedom. The whole world is now speaking about responsible freedom. Even the Americans now are speaking about responsible freedom. Speaking of freedom of the press, I will tell you about something that took place three days ago. A U.S. delegation was visiting me. They complained to me about Egyptian press criticism of Israel and others. He [not further identified] brought me a dossier full of caricatures. I told him: I will not take it, but let met tell you something. They learned about this from you. You criticize us and even slander us — for false reason and based on wrong information. Can the U.S. President stop these people? No, he said. I said: You are asking me to tell journalists not to write, draw, or criticize? We have freedom, I said. He said: But these people are close to you. I told him there is no such thing as someone being close or not close. Maybe I know this person or that person, with whom I have good relations, but I cannot tell him not to write this or ban this. It has not happened with me. If you see there is a violation, you have the judiciary, I told him.

Since you mention freedom to write and freedom of expression and attack any state that bans a newspaper, do not come to me and ask me to prevent some people from writing. Israel criticizes us. They publish offensive caricatures of us. Why should we be expected to stop — and I can stop no one unless it is within the law — when everybody else is doing it. I said to him: Keep these papers with you and if there is anything wrong, talk with the artist, listen to his views, explain things, or in some way respond to him. But do not ask me to take any measure. I will be unable to do so. This is freedom of expression.

As for our plays, as you can see, I never said any play should be suspended. No such thing happened.

[Fawzi] This is true.

[Mubarak] There are complaints about some plays. I never interfere. If anything goes against the law, this is something else. There is state machinery responsible for that. They should not wait for the president to issue instructions. I do not give orders in this connection. Everyone has a responsibility to shoulder. Name a single book that was impounded. Even when it was said that al-Azhar was critical of some books and that books should be collected, I said that nobody can collect or impound a book. This can only be done by a legal order. Nobody in the authority can impound a book. I do not impound books, although I am empowered to do that by the emergency law. But I do not do that. This is a matter of principle.

Freedom of expression, of criticism, of the press is a necessity, nothing more. No book or newspaper was banned, although there are some excesses, excesses that are beyond the limits of propriety. But I let these things pass.

[Fawzi] And freedom of the broadcast or printed word....

[Mubarak, interrupting] I never interfere in that. Television sometimes broadcasts seminars that involve criticism. If I wanted to restrict freedom of expression, would I let the parties appear on television?

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[Fawzi] Your Excellency, when you read an article that includes improper criticism of the head of state, beyond the limits of propriety, what do you do?

[Mubarak] I will take no measure against its author. It is the people, not me, who will take that measure. I am the people's representative. The people elected me to take care of their interests. I do not want the people to get used to me doing everything. When I first came to office, whenever a newspaper criticized an official in parliament or elsewhere, that official would come running to me to say that the regime was the target of that criticism. I would say: What can this regime do if its people cannot protect and support it? Why do you not respond to that in writing? I would ask: Do you want to burden me personally with everything? During President al-Sadat's time they would come and tell him that the regime was the target of criticism to make him nervous. I learned from experience not to get nervous. If anyone has anything to say, let him put it in writing. If there is any violation of the law, let him file a lawsuit.

[Fawzi] Even if there is harsh criticism of a minister?

[Mubarak] The minister himself can file a lawsuit. I will take no measure on his behalf.

[Fawzi] And if there is false rumor about a citizen?

[Mubarak] The rumors are endless. Many rumors have circulated about us. None was correct. Let them talk. Let things take their time without nervousness. The public will know eventually. Things may take a long time. But you must be patient and the people will distinguish the true from the false.

[Fawzi] Mr. President, I would like to raise an issue that does not fall under foreign policy. It is the issue of Egyptian labor in Libya and some Arab countries.

[Mubarak] There was a commotion about this in the papers, about the Egyptian workers in Libya. Some people go without contracts or jobs and just start looking for work there. This is not a dignified thing to do. But we have a large workforce in Libya. The colonel [al-Qadhdhafi] says it numbers 10 million. But I said it is not that big. But Egyptian laborers in Libya have no problem. Some people might have returned when other nationalities were being deported. They deported people who had no jobs, probably to maintain security in their country.

As for the Egyptian workforce in the Gulf states, I believe we have some 1.2 million Egyptians working in Saudi Arabia in various fields. There are doctors, teachers, engineers, plumbers, cooks, and all other professions. If someone does something wrong, this does not mean Saudi Arabia is mistreating our people. Some newspapers wrote things...[pauses] The parties owning these papers talk about Arab solidarity, cooperation, and reconciliation and then lash out at Arab states. Saudi Arabia is most supportive of us. It supported us in harsh circumstances. I do not want to get into...[pauses] And so did the United Arab Emirates. It is not right to turn an individual incident into a big story and undermine relations between two countries, unless the writer has some other goal in mind or is being pushed by some other party. I have no doubt that our press is an aware press. It can identify the writing that might undermine relations. We contacted some newspapers and some of them apologized for the mistake. I am happy to hear that.

[Fawzi] Mr. President, let me take advantage of the freedom of this televised interview to ask you directly: Is there pressure on the ruler with regard to firm Egyptian positions on international issues to make him change his view of political or economic affairs?

[Mubarak] Look, brother Mufid. I always have dignity. My dignity is the people's dignity and vice versa. I accept no pressure, from inside or outside the country, under any circumstances. Domestically, I do what the public interest dictates. I do not accept pressure. I accept understanding and dialogue and then I make a decision that serves the public interest. Some may talk about foreign pressure on me but this is completely baseless. I recall no pressure on me by any country or any president since I became president. I accept no pressure. Once, somewhere, someone, not the president, told me something and my reaction was very violent. I have self-respect; I represent the Egyptian people. There has been no pressure on me by any side. Ignore what they say. What are they saying? The terrorists are saying: We are not with the president, because he has good relations with the West. My relations with the West, the United States, Europe, the East, the Africans, the Arabs, and the whole world are for the benefit of the Egyptian people.

[Fawzi] We hear about the negotiations with the IMF, but there are fundamental differences, and I hope you will correct me if I am wrong. What is the truth? How much debt has been written off and how much debt remains? Finally, what about economic reforms?

[Mubarak] First, there were differences. We implemented programs with the IMF in the early nineties and it took time before the IMF agreed with us on what we believed to be in our country's interest. We needed the economic reforms because the time was coming when the State's resources, against the background of the population increase, were in danger of being spent on the subsidies for some commodities from which the rich and the poor were benefiting. The time was coming when we

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would have had no resources to spend on health, education, or on many other things. We were compelled to opt for economic reform. The economic reforms ultimately benefit the ordinary citizen. You will ask me how, since everything is available to him. We are providing him with his daily bread. When we have economic reforms then we have resources. Having resources enables us to subsidize bread for the poor. This subsidy to the poor will continue; we are doing all we can to continue it for the needy classes. If we change things, it is only to make the rich or those financially capable buy it at the real price. I try to subsidize the ordinary person in many ways.

Yes, there were differences between us and the IMF. We proceeded with two programs. They created a problem for us some time ago. I refused to accept any of the IMF proposals. I stayed like this for two years because I saw that these proposals would harm the public interest and the ordinary citizen.

At last they have shown understanding of this issue, realized that we are right, shelved the issue, and taken it off their mind. Relations between us are proceeding and I believe we will soon reach an accord that will not put a significant burden on the people. The difficult era is gone; that was 1991. There are no more difficult times ahead, except for a very minor and insignificant matter, which we will come to later when we reach an agreement. Now let us come to the debts. We owed $43 billion.

[Fawzi] Including the military debts?

[Mubarak] Including the military debts. Of the $43 billion, $14 billion was written off in the first and second programs. There are $3 or $4 billion left, which will be written off after we sign the third program. We will reduce $7 billion more by 2027. By the way, all these debts were not of my making.

[Fawzi] I know.

[Mubarak] Of these debts, $2 billion is owed to Russia, another $1.5 billion to the former socialist countries. What I borrowed from abroad in hard currency for the infrastructure is less than what has been written off. Every dollar I borrowed abroad went on the infrastructure, equipment, etc. The amount written off so far is $14 billion. Later, when there is an agreement, $400 million will be reduced and the rest will be rescheduled up to 2027. So all in all, it will be $14 billion plus $7 billion up to 2027 plus $4 billion, which is a lot of money [figures as heard]. The important thing now is to know where we stand. We owe money, yes. But the whole world owes money. The richest countries are in debt. So long as you borrow and can pay back, it is very good. I have reserves in foreign currencies but they go on food, industries, supplies, and everything. Now I am comfortable. In September 1990, the Central Bank did not have $10. There was no money. We wanted to pay for the wheat installment but we could not. Nobody was willing to give us wheat. They told us: You want wheat, you must pay in cash. You could not even pay your arrears, so how can you borrow more, they said. We were collecting cash from the market to pay for the wheat installment. Once, some money from the military debts to the United States was due for payment. Had we delayed it a month, all the aid would have stopped. I remember I took money twice from Saudi Arabia, the first time when our diplomatic relations were cut. King Fahd did not hesitate and paid me $100 million immediately. The second time it was $94 million. We did not have diplomatic relations at the time. Now I have a good surplus and reserves in the Central Bank. I pay my dues. For your information, the debts have not increased since 1991. Borrowing is conducted by law. Nobody can borrow under the table. When I hear the word loan, I sit up, put on my glasses, and read every word in the application. I ask: Why do you need a loan? If you can secure it domestically, fine. If not, how urgent is it? What is the use of it. Often I refuse. I must know what it is for. I will tell you how things used to be in the past. Once I was visiting al-Sharqiyah Governorate. It was very easy to get loans before. I saw one of the projects. Countries with a lot of money in their banks want to use this money. One of the European countries rushed to one of the major projects there, offering a $100-million loan. The custom before was that a project or a company that needed a loan did not pay it back. It was a debt owed by the government and the Central Bank. It did not show up in the project's budget as a debt, so the budget showed a profit. It is as if it had earned $100 million gratis on the house. The Central Bank would pay it. He [not further identified] does not pay it from his budget. It is easy money. So he said he would get a loan. I asked him: Who will pay it back? The government, he answered. I said: Never. No loan.

Anyone who wants a loan for a project must be solvent so as to pay off the loan. If he cannot pay he can turn to the (?local councils). I did not approve the loan and it was canceled. Since then I have maintained my position that anyone who wants a loan must be solvent to pay off the loan. The public business companies must be solvent and any government department that wants to carry out projects must be solvent. A company cannot borrow and pretend to make a profit. A project must be carried out with the available resources. But loans must be undertaken here in the country, and those who borrow must repay.

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[Fawzi] You cherish the hope that every citizen can expect a better standard of living. May I ask you about the priority you give to the low-income and poor people?

[Mubarak] This is my top priority. I do everything possible in the interest of the poor and low-income class. I use the rich in the interest of the poor. Someone once asked why the president supports the rich. I said that if we do not have rich people, the number of poor will increase, so will crime. All the world welcomes the rich. The former socialist countries give the rich everything free to invest. They give the rich free land and other facilities to spend, invest, and create jobs for the unemployed. I support the rich who help the poor. If a rich man wants to establish a project, I will encourage him and give him exemption. If I do not do that, they will go to other countries that will give them better facilities. When I give the rich exemption, they will provide jobs, increase production, and add to the State revenue. When a rich man imports a Mercedes, Cadillac, or any other expensive item, he will pay customs — between 0.5 and 1 million pounds to the Treasury. If we do not have rich people who increase our revenue, how can I spend on the poor? Education, which used to cost 900 million pounds, now costs 10 billion in the current budget. In 1982, we had 8 million students. Now we have 15.5 million students, nearly twice as many. Should I force the rich out? When the earthquake occurred and the floods caused havoc, some rich people donated to build whole villages. Others donated many other things. Why should we force the rich out? There are people who beg and welcome the rich in their countries. Heads of state want rich businessmen to carry out projects in their countries. If they come to invest in Egypt, should I force them out? My top priority is the people with limited income. Our first and most important job is to employ every possible means in the interest of the low-income people.

[Fawzi] During your term in office the population has increased by 18 million. [Mubarak and Fawzi laugh] I believe that your voice has grown hoarse from repeating the issue of the population growth rate. The people want to know about job prospects.

[Mubarak] If we had not achieved what we have, no one could find bread, not even the people who existed before the population increase. The 18-million increase in the population is an enormous one. They can find food and clothes. We are building housing and encouraging them on the path toward development. We currently provide 0.5 million job opportunities annually. We are creating job opportunities.

[Fawzi] I am surprised how all these people could find food and education.

[Mubarak] God will help us but we must work. God wants us to rely on him but he also wants us to work hard. We must work.

If it were not for our efforts and work in recent years, we would have been unable to feed, clothe, house, or employ even the population that existed before that increase. Imagine an increase of 18 million. That is almost another big state, bigger than the Iraqi population before events there. We should thank God. But we must work to create jobs for these people. We have unemployment, just as the rest of the world does. America has unemployment and seeks more investment. They open markets to sell more, open new lines of production, and create jobs for more people. The same applies to England and France. Unemployment in France amounts to 12 percent. Spain has 23 percent unemployment. There is unemployment throughout Europe. Even Japan has unemployment, although it is lower. And then there are the former socialist countries, where all the people were employed by the government. Do not forget that some 2 million worked for the government when I took office. We now have 4 million.

[Fawzi] Four million civil servants?

[Mubarak] I use state revenue to pay their salaries. We used to employ all [graduates]. But later we found that we could not afford it. In 1982, total salaries amounted to 2.5 billion pounds. This year they total 17 billion. We are talking about civil servants' salaries. I am not talking about the public sector. We must provide 17 billion pounds in the budget ending 1996.

[Fawzi] Is the ruler's job difficult?

[Mubarak] It is a very difficult job these days. Even in your home you cannot please three or four people. One of them must be dissatisfied. Imagine 60 million. One wants elections according to party tickets, another wants individual tickets, one talks about the rich, and another talks about the poor. The ruler's job today is not a luxury. You wake up to problems and sleep with them. Personally, I have nothing but problems from the time I wake up until I go back to bed.

[Fawzi] There is a question coming from the heart of the Egyptian city. When, how, and why did you decide to visit Israel to participate in Rabin's funeral?

[Mubarak] The man on the street understands perfectly. Some people try to confuse things. When President Anwar al-Sadat passed away — this is the standard by which I measure things — the Israeli prime minister

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came with several ministers. Later, the head of state came. Nobody failed to offer his condolences. When Yitzhaq Rabin died—he had visited me and we were on good terms, although we had our differences of opinion — the peace process was still going on. As I said, I considered him courageous because he was involved in one of the most difficult, complex, and sensitive issues in the Middle East — the Palestinian issue. I viewed his conduct as daring in spite of the problems and disagreements between the two sides. It was my duty. After all, we have diplomatic ties and Rabin performed his duty toward al-Sadat. I had to perform the obligation of offering condolences. That is why I went. The world appreciated this—East and West. Nobody pressured me to go. When I found that the whole civilized world was going, I said it would look bad if I did not go or send a delegate or minister. I found it in the interest of the people to go. Some people might not have liked it. But you cannot please all the people, even if you go out of your way to please them. I do what my conscience dictates and do it in the interest of this country.

[Fawzi] Mr. President, a supplementary question to the last one. Is Egypt's stance on the Jerusalem issue firm?

[Mubarak] It has not changed. It has not changed at all. Just because I went to Jerusalem?

[Fawzi] For example.

[Mubarak] That was a duty to offer condolences. There is East and West Jerusalem. I did not go there. I just saw them from the hotel. I went to offer condolences; this was a duty dictated by conscience and the public interest. We have diplomatic relations with these people. We differ on some issues, such as the Palestinian issue, the nuclear issue. But that was something else.

[Fawzi] The people want to be assured about their future and that of their sons and grandchildren. [Words indistinct] of unemployment is an important issue?

[Mubarak] Look, Mufid, I do not have a button to press to create jobs. I am struggling to create jobs. As I just said, unemployment has become a global phenomenon; it is not limited to us. The world's population is increasing; it will be 10 billion by 2007. You are saying that water and food will be a problem. Yes. Whenever this huge increase in population occurs, the State's revenue must be affected. Just like a man with a family. He can live well if he has two children but when there are 10 children and his income has not increased, then he has a problem. Unemployment exists everywhere; everyone wants to create jobs and reduce unemployment. We are among them. We are creating around 0.5 million jobs a year. But the problems, such as terrorism and criticism, give us trouble when it comes to investment. What are their objectives? We are encouraging investment and granting them privileges. When somebody comes to Egypt and proposes a project that will employ 100 workers, they tell him: No, do not do this, pay this, do not pay this, and so on. This investor will be supporting 100 families. It is better for me that this somebody supports 100 families, that 100 people are living, eating, spending, learning, and getting houses than for me to tax him and thus make him forget the project. This is how I look at it. This is why I opened investments without formal approval and with exemptions and without having to go to the Investments Council. I give the investor land with utilities free in the industrial areas in Upper Egypt. Let them build projects that produce. We will give you the land. You need only build the factory so that there will be no speculation. Any project costing up to 50 million pounds can proceed and enjoy the same exemptions. The investor need not go to the Investments Council or the Higher Committee. I am providing these facilities to create jobs. I always look to see how many people this or that project will employ. Will it be 50? Will it be 100? If I tax it and do not grant it exemptions, how much will it pay me? Some 50,000 pounds? No. I prefer these jobs to be the tax that I collect. This is why I am strongly encouraging investment and giving land, specifically in Upper Egypt, so that the people will be encouraged to invest there instead of having everybody come to Cairo.

When I went to Suhaj, I was happy to meet a simple farmer with two sons. He has a biscuit and chocolate factory. He told me they had established a small company with one vehicle that distributes its products from Aswan to Suhaj. These are the small industries. There are many of them there. I saw people building on the free land that has utilities. Instead of spending their money on buying land, they built factories. Give them the land free. There is a factory in the mountains, 15 km [words indistinct]. I was very happy with this farmer and his two sons. He wore a jallabiyah [national costume]. People did not know him. I knew he was the father of these two sons. I told him: Come here, o haj. You are a blessing. I let him walk beside me. See how he and his sons built a factory and even expanded it. I was very happy when I entered the factory. I saw people working inside their houses. It is gladdening to see the people working.

[Fawzi] What is your view of the young people who work in areas other than those in which they specialize to raise their families and make their homes?

[Mubarak] In the past, when someone finished law school he would accept nothing less than the job of prosecutor. Graduates of the faculty of commerce could accept nothing less than a big position. They would refuse

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to work in banks. The world has changed. Everything has changed. Are we not expected to change?

I painted my house. The painter had a B.A. in business administration. I usually sit with the workers to watch them work. I asked him why he was working as a painter when he had a degree. He replied: You see me in these clothes now. I take so much for a day's work. I am about to open my own business. At the end of the day I will become a respectable gentleman. This job earns a lot. I would not work for 20, 50, or 100 pounds. I earn between 100 and 200 per day. He asked: Why should I look for an ordinary job? Thinking has changed. In the past, people would say that if you miss the government you miss the boat. They meant a man should work in the government. Some people are still like that. Some people were working in the private sector and when it was their turn for employment in the government, we thought: As long as they have good jobs and good salaries, there is no need for them to get a government job. But they said they would resign from the private sector so that they could be employed in the government. They wanted to get jobs in the government so that they could shirk their duties there to work in the private sector. They wanted to keep both jobs, to take two salaries and deprive other people of a job.

[Fawzi] Let me ask you about rural electricity.

[Mubarak] By the end of 1996, water and electricity...

[Fawzi, interrupting] Potable water.

[Mubarak] Yes, potable water. Our water in Egypt is good. Foreigners drink it now. They refuse to drink bottled water. They say fresh water is better. This is because they analyzed the water. How many cities and villages had water and electricity? We will supply all residential communities with electricity by the end of 1996 and early 1997. Some 500 housing units have been supplied with potable water since I told the new housing minister. He reinstated many projects that had been suspended. All this needs money. All this must be translated into money. Give me money, a lot of money...[pauses] If I had money to cover all this without affecting health, media, jobs, or other services, I would be willing to do anything. When I build a plant I create jobs and when I build a road I create jobs, when I build an apartment block I create jobs, and when I build a car factory I create jobs. Every project creates jobs and supports families. This is my concern.

[Fawzi] Do you approve of overcrowded classrooms?

[Mubarak] For a long time we did not build enough schools. The Education Ministry's policy now is to solve the problem by the year 2000. Schools are being built at a good rate and teachers are being trained at home and abroad. I believe that by 2000 we will have solved this problem.

[Fawzi] Let us talk about medical treatment in government hospitals.

[Mubarak] For some time government hospitals had no modern treatment device or equipment. There are now many hospitals. Some hospitals were not completed for lack of funds. We now have so many hospitals. We are furnishing hospitals with the most sophisticated equipment in the world. We are also opening military hospitals to civilians for a nominal fee. We have that hospital in Kubri al-Qubbah. Some people used to complain about the hospital in the pyramids area. We fixed it. Press observations help us to avoid mistakes. We are opening many hospitals. We are training many doctors. We also try to provide as much medicine as we can. Because the cost of medical treatment is high, some hospitals designate a section for paid treatment. They call it investment branches. But the cost there is still lower than private hospitals; the revenue can be used to spend on the poor, who are treated free of charge. Some government hospitals do that now. We are making progress. The world was not created in a day. We see schools, hospitals, housing, and jobs.

Our tasks are enormous. We try to raise the standard of living. Annual per capita annual income in 1965 was $151. In 1975 it was $276. In 1982, it was $610. In 1994 to 1995 it was $910, that is, a threefold increase. The standard of living is improving. Some might say that prices are rising. Of course they are.

Prices have gone up but I give as many and as big pay rises as I can. Not to mention invisible income, such as jobs on the side. Someone works as a taxi driver in the afternoon, another in catering, someone else knits at home, another makes clothing at home, etc. This is not taxable. But naturally it means an improved standard of living. It pleases me to see people, decent people, making food at home and selling it. This is very good. I once bought from them. In some homes they buy a Japanese knitting machine, knit, and sell. Very good. A week ago I heard something. Some young men sent me neckties. I was surprised. I accepted them. I asked who sent them but no one knew. I put them aside for a while. They are good ties, bearing the logos of foreign companies. I wondered who sent me the ties. Then two days ago the industry minister phoned me and said: I sent you ties. Where from, I asked. He said two young men decided to go to Italy or France to build a factory, then they decided to come back and build it at their home in Kubri al-Qubbah. They have contracts with some major fashion houses to make .5 million or 1 million ties. I said: Very well. Who would think of

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making ties and selling them? They make money and provide jobs. They are creative people. But if you wait for a government job, you will not survive. But stay away from the government and you will do very well.

[Fawzi] Mr. President, I will quote some of your remarks. I want to know what they mean to you. War crimes do not lapse under the statute of limitations.

[Mubarak] This is included in Article 3 of the Geneva Convention. They do not lapse by the Statute of Limitations, like the issue of the Israelis [reference to the debate over the killing of Egyptian POW's by Israelis]. I do not want to open it up at the moment. I will wait. But they understand that this issue remains open for us. I am waiting for the new Israeli prime minister to find a solution to this issue. They conduct an investigation — they say the same about us — and we conduct an investigation. No problem. My opinion on this does not change.

[Fawzi] I make no distinction between a Muslim and a Christian; under the flag of Egypt they are all Egyptians.

[Mubarak] The issue of Muslims and Christians is something new. They are Egyptian citizens. What does it mean to be Christian or Muslim? Is he not Egyptian? Being a Muslim, Christian, or Jew is up to him. This is all between the individual and his God. How can I distinguish citizens living under Egypt's sky because of religion or something else? They are mistaken.

[Fawzi] I learned democracy from the military establishment.

[Mubarak] The military establishment has more democracy than civilian life. You cannot make a decision in the military establishment without listening to the reports from all the concerned quarters. You cannot simply give an order on your own. In any operation, war, or exercise, the commander listens to reports from all the concerned quarters that affect the operation. Someone may tell you: I do not have enough vehicles for a [word indistinct]. So you modify your plans. Another one may tell you so and so. In light of all this, you hear suggestions and you choose the best by interacting with your people. And this is what I do, even in civilian life. Forget about those who say I monopolize decisions. They do not know what they are talking about. There is not one issue on which I do not consult people. When the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty was up for renewal, I summoned people of various inclinations who were experienced in the issue. I arranged a big conference, though some said I should not have. But I must hear others' opinions.

There were about 20 people at the conference. I listened to their suggestions. When you hear the various opinions it gives you an idea of the right direction. If I disagree with them I will tell them I cannot do something because of the risks. Normally, when they realize there are risks involved, they say: If this is the case, then we agree. We hold a discussion and come up with the right decision.

[Fawzi] Why do you avoid keeping permanent advisers?

[Mubarak] Advisers mean centers of power. Since before President 'Abd-al-Nasir's time it has been the case that if you do not listen to the adviser's opinion, he gets upset. When he says something, you must follow it. For me it is different. Why advisers? The country is full of experienced people. In any field I gather a group of experts from universities, research centers, and freelancers in the market, and listen to their opinion. I consult with them for the good of the country. I consult with them on various issues to learn what is the best solution. I cannot claim to know everything. I would be mistaken if I did. If I claim to know everything I will make mistakes and my decisions will never be correct. I listen to opinions, those of workers, farmers, experts, university professors, and experts in research centers. I listen. It helps. I learn. You learn until you die. No one knows everything.

[Fawzi] What can the president of Egypt tell the Egyptians as they go to the polling stations tomorrow?

[Mubarak] I say that every citizen eligible to vote must vote. This is number one. Second, there is no pressure on any citizen to choose anyone he does not think can represent the people. You must give your vote to the people you trust, irrespective of whether they give gifts or money. You vote in confidentiality. Give your vote to people you trust to represent you in parliament so that we can achieve sound representation in parliament for the good of all the people.

[Fawzi] What do you want to say to the people?

[Mubarak] Look, I tell everyone that we are working hard for the middle and poorer classes. The rich are working [word indistinct]. We spare no effort and do everything we can to upgrade citizens' living standard. There is no interest for us, but this. There is no goal, but this. All we are doing is in the people's interest. I emphasize to the people that they must trust us to state the truth without distortion, exaggeration, or otherwise. I wish our country prosperity. I wish Egypt to remain lofty and grand. I want it always to stand out on the map.

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Mubarak Addresses UN Committee on Palestinian Rights

NC3011212595 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1950 GMT 30 Nov 95

[FBIS Translated Text] United Nations, 30 Nov (MENA) — President Husni Mubarak has called upon the world community to support the Palestinian people. The Palestinians, he said, need this support more than ever as they take their first steps along the road of peace to realize their hoped-for objective. He said Egypt, which takes credit for leading the Middle East peace march — an arduous march full of problems and troubles accumulating over many years — knows that the Palestinian people need the world's support.

President Husni Mubarak stated this in his address today to the UN Committee on the Exercise of the Inalienable Rights of the Palestinian People on the occasion of the international day of solidarity with the Palestinians.

The following is the text of President Mubarak's address to the Committee:

Mr. Chairman of the UN Committee on the Exercise of the Inalienable Rights of the Palestinian People:

I am pleased to thank you and the all Committee members for your great efforts to help the Palestinian people obtain their legitimate rights, which were emphasized by the United Nations and its various bodies through many resolutions.

I would also like to commend the positive and effective role you are playing to inform and enlighten people worldwide about the cause and legitimate rights of the Palestinian people.

We are this year celebrating the day of solidarity with the Palestinian people in a climate reflecting the growing progress made in the peace process since the Palestinian-Israeli Declaration of Principles was signed in Washington on 13 September 1993. That declaration established the bases for the Palestinian people to regain their legitimate rights, promising that peace will spread its wings over the Middle East.

Today, after the signing of the latest agreement between the two sides, under which Israeli forces will withdraw from the Arab cities in the West Bank and the Palestinian people will exercise their right to vote — away from the coercion of occupation — the Palestinian Authority will be established so that the destiny of the Palestinian people will be in the hands of their sons. This is a first, major step to national independence, for the sake of which all Palestinians have long struggled. It was achieved due to the Palestinians freely opting for peace and negotiations as the way to obtain national legitimate rights.

Egypt had the honor of leading the road to peace in the Middle East, a long road full of problems and residual issues that had accumulated over a very long time. We in Egypt, therefore, understand that the Palestinian people still need the world's help, perhaps more now than ever before, as they take their first steps to peace to reach the hoped-for objective.

The Palestinian people, in this important stage of their history, and while working to regain their national legitimate rights and preparing to exercise part of these rights on a part of their land, urgently need the endless efforts of those who are sincere and love peace. They need support in all political, economic, and other areas. We in Egypt are determined to support the Palestinian people so that they can achieve their just demands and legitimate rights with a view to reaching a just, lasting, and comprehensive peaceful solution in the region.

As a representative of the world community, the United Nations undoubtedly shoulders a special responsibility of the cause of the Palestinian people. The Committee on the Exercise of the Inalienable Rights of the Palestinian People is an embodiment of this responsibility.

We praise the development that the Committee introduced to its method of action that matches the developments of the peace process and serves the needs of the Palestinian people in the current transitional stage.

Here, we call on your esteemed Committee to continue its efforts and good offices so that the Palestinian people will gain their full freedom on their national soil, including East Jerusalem, so that this part of the world can once again become a land for tolerance, love, peace, and all meanings and sublime values of the three divine messages that this spot was honored to embrace. Let us take care of this historic opportunity to achieve peace, and let the world community join ranks to ensure the legitimate rights of the Palestinian people as a cornerstone for rendering peace efforts in the region successful. Undoubtedly, the efforts of your esteemed Committee will continue to contribute to the achievement of these noble objectives.

While we reiterate our constant preparedness to cooperate with you along this road, we wish you all success.

Minister Denies Opposition Claims in Polls

NC3011143795 Cairo Arab Republic of Egypt Radio Network in Arabic 1230 GMT 30 Nov 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Safwat al-Sharif, information minister and assistant secretary general of the National

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Democratic Party [NDP], has said that the most prominent characteristic of the new People's Assembly elections is that they are the first to be held in Egypt under the system of political pluralism with parties contesting the elections on the basis of solid election law. In a statement today to the television program "Good Morning Egypt," the information minister denied claims that opposition parties and independents were not given equal chances as the NDP were given to explain their election programs. He stressed that ordinary Egyptians now fully trust Egyptian media.

The information minister explained that all parties were given equal time on radio and television to explain their programs. He also denied allegations that the government seeks to liquidate Islamic opposition in Egypt. He stressed that there is nothing called Islamic opposition, and that the opposition in Egypt is nationalist. He said there are no Christian or Islamic parties in Egypt; there are only political parties. He said the Muslim Brotherhood was dissolved by the [1952] revolution. Those who want to form a party can form a political party, and the Constitution mentions nothing about religions parties, he said.

Supporters of NDP Candidate Gravely Wound Rival

NC3011122995 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1200 GMT 30 Nov 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Bani Suwayf, 30 Nov (MENA) — Biba's Electoral Constituency in Bani Suwayf Governorate in Upper Egypt was the scene of a shooting today. Some supporters of NDP [National Democratic Party] candidate 'Ali 'Abdallah shot his rival, independent candidate Sa'id Salim. The two candidates were competing for the professional seat in the constituency.

Dr. Salim suffered serious injuries and was taken to Cairo. He is now in a grave condition.

Tawfiq Salim, a bystander, was injured by another bullet in the same incident and suffered a superficial wound. He is being treated in one of Bani Suwayf's hospitals.

Election Results in Several Constituencies Reported

NC3011125995 Cairo Arab Republic of Egypt Radio Network in Arabic 1100 GMT 30 Nov 95

[FBIS Translated Text] The announcement of the initial results of the People's Assembly elections began in various constituencies in all the Republic's governorates this morning.

The Interior Ministry's election operations room has received the result of the vote count in Cairo's 19th Constituency, headquartered at al-Sayyidah Zaynab Police Station. The count showed that Dr. Fathi Surur, People's Assembly speaker and National Democratic Party [NDP] candidate on the professionals list has won the seat in that constituency.

In Cairo's 24th Constituency, headquartered at Hulwan Police Station, Dr. Muhammad al-Ghamrawi, minister of State for War Production, won one of the People's Assembly professional list seat.

In the Ninth Constituency, headquartered at al-Zaytun Police Station, the vote count showed that Dr. Zakariya 'Azmi, head of the President's Office and NDP candidate, won a seat on the professionals list.

NDP member Fathi Salim Ibrahim won the workers list seat in the same constituency.

Dr. 'Abd-al-Ahad Jamal-al-Din, People's Assembly former deputy speaker and NDP member won the professionals list seat in the 12th Constituency, headquartered at al-Zahir Police Station.

NDP candidate 'Abd-al-'Aziz Mustafa won the workers seat in the Qasr al-Nil Constituency. A run-off election will be held for the professionals seat between Wafd party candidate Yasin Siraj-al-Din and independent candidate Dr. Husam Badrawi.

In the Hulwan-Tibbin Constituency, a run-off election will be held for the professionals seat between Awqaf Minister Muhammad 'Ali Mahjub and Mustafa Bakri, chief editor of the newspaper AL-AHRAR.

A run-off election for the workers seat in the same constituency will be held between NDP member Muhammad Mustafa and independent candidate 'Ali Sayyid Fath al-Bab.

A run-off election for the professionals seat will be held at the 11th Constituency, headquartered at al-Wayili Police Station between Wafd party candidate Munir Fakhri 'Abd-al-Nur and NDP candidate Ahmad Fu'ad.

A run-off election for the workers seat will be held in the same constituency between independent candidate Fawzi Shahin and NDP member Sulayman 'Abd-al-Tawwab Khamis.

In al-Minufiyah Governorate, Kamal al-Shadhili, minister for People's Assembly and Consultative Council Affairs, won the professionals seat in al-Bajur Constituency. NDP candidate Shafiq Muhammad Shahin won the peasants seat with 100 percent of the vote.

In the Sixth Constituency, headquartered in Quwaysina, Engineer Sulayman Mutawalli, NDP member and minister of Transport and Communications, won the professionals seat.

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In al-Daqahliyah Governorate, the vote count showed that Local Administration minister and NDP candidate Dr. Mahmud Sharif won the professionals seat. A run-off election for the workers seat will be held between NDP member Muhammad Hammad and independent candidate Fayiz Darwish.

In al-Daqahliyah's 12th Constituency, headquartered at al-Jamaliyah Police Station, NDP member [Works and Water Resources minister] Engineer 'Isam Radi won the professionals seat.

In the First Constituency of South Sinai Governorate, headquartered at the Tur Sinai Police Station, a run-off election for the workers seat will be held between NDP candidate Faraj Brit 'Awdah and independent candidate Salih Matar. A run-off election for the professionals seat will be held between NDP candidate Hamid Hasan and independent candidate Hasan Sulayman.

In the Ra's Sidr Constituency, NDP candidate Mrs. Jalilah Jum'ah 'Awwad Husayn and independent candidate 'Ali Frayj Rashid Sallam won seats.

The following results have been announced in the Bani Suwayf Governorate:

In the Bani Suwayf Constituency, NDP candidate 'Abu-al-Khayr 'Abd-al-'Alim won the professionals seat and NDP candidate 'Abd-al- Hamid 'Abd-al-'Azim won the workers seat.

In the Ihnasya Constituency, NDP candidate Fathi al-Bahnasawi won the professionals seat and NDP candidate Muhammad Salim 'Uthman won the workers seat.

In the Nasir Constituency, NDP candidate Mustafa al-Juwayli won the professionals seat and NDP candidate 'Ali Nasir won the workers seat.

In the Biba Constituency, NDP candidate 'Ali 'Abdallah Mabruk won the professionals seat. A run-off election will be held for the workers seat between NDP candidate 'Abd-al-Rahman Hubaysh and independent candidate 'Ali 'Abbas.

In the Sumusta Constituency, NDP candidate Muhammad Sulayman won the professionals seat and NDP candidate 'Abd-al-'Azim Daghash won the workers seat.

In al-Wasitah Constituency, NDP candidate Mustafa al-Ridi won the professionals seat and NDP candidate Ibrahim al-Junaydi won the workers seat.

Casualties Reported in Election-Related Incidents

NC0112070495 Cairo MENA in Arabic
2330 GMT 30 Nov 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Cairo, 30 Nov (MENA) — One person was killed and 15 wounded in Markaz Qallin, Kafr al-Shaykh Governorate, in riots triggered by supporters of Muhiy-al-Din Fathallah Qattan, the National Democratic Party [NDP] candidate in the governorate's fifth constituency. The candidate's supporters tried to break in to the police station where ballots for the People's Assembly elections were being sorted.

An Interior Ministry statement tonight explained that the candidate accused the head of the sorting committee, based in Qallin police station, of rigging the ballots in favor of his rival, independent candidate 'Abd-al-'Aziz Muhammad Dawmah, when he realized there would be a run-off for the seat. He walked out to his supporters gathered in front of the station and informed them of the alleged rigging. The supporters became agitated and tried to break into the station but the police resisted them. They threw stones at security men, who brought the situation under control. Six recruits from the Kafr al-Shaykh security forces were bruised in the stone-throwing. Once security forces contained the situation, sorting continued. Later, supporters of the NDP candidate placed stones on the Kafr al-Shaykh railroad, blocking train traffic between Kafr al-Shaykh and Tanta. Security forces moved them. The prosecution has been informed to investigate the riots.

An Interior Ministry statement noted that Interior Minister Hasan al-Alfi suspended Major 'Abd-al-'Aziz Fathallah al-Qattan, a police officer from Asyut Security Directorate and the NDP candidate's brother, for backing his brother during the riots. He has been refered for questioning.

In the Nile Delta Governorate of al-Daqahliyah, student Jamal Hamdi al-Khuli was killed when a policeman fired shots into the air to disperse demonstrators who threw stones at the al-Ahli Bank in Markaz Dikirnis.

Supporters of National Progressive Unionist Grouping candidate Muhammad 'Abd-al-Wahhab Fudah threw stones at the bank after the Dikirnis result was announced. Policeman Mujahid Ibrahim Muhammad, who was assigned to stand guard at the bank, fired into the air to disperse the demonstrators. A bullet hit Jamal. Security forces went to the scene and brought the situation under control. The prosecution has been notified.

In al-Gharbiyah Governorate, supporters of some candidates gathered in the Sindiyun District on the Cairo-Alexandria road and threw stones at passing cars, damaging some of them.

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In Markaz Mit Ghamr, al-Daqahliyah Governorate, one person was killed and two wounded in Bishla village when supporters of independent candidate Dr. Muhammad Riyah al-Nazir set fire to tires and fired shots into the air after their candidate was rumored to have been defeated. The police brought the situation under control, arrested the rioters, and seized their weapons. The prosecution has been notified.

Following the defeat of their candidate in al-Buhayrah Governorate, supporters of independent Karim Muhammad Yunus tried to break into the Kawm Hamadah police station during sorting. Security forces repulsed them, arrested them, and brought the situation under control. The sorting committee continues its work.

Labor Party Leader Said Defeated in Elections

NC3011164395 Cairo MENA in English 1535 GMT 30 Nov 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Al-Mansurah, Nile Delta, Nov 30 (MENA)— Leader of the Labour Party, Ibrahim Shukri, did not win in People's Assembly elections in Shirbin constituency, al-Daqahliyah Governorate, Lower Egypt. Results showed that re-run elections will be held between Fathi Mansur (NDP [National Democratic Party]—professions) and Salah Faraj (independent—professions) who contested the elections in the same constituency with Shukri. There will be re-run elections in the same constituency between Mahmud 'Abd-al-Fattah (NDP—workers) and al-Mursi 'Abd-al-Hafiz (independent—workers). Officials of the Labour Party had earlier said that Shukri had won but results showed that Shukri did not win.

Court Hands Down Verdict in Muslim Brotherhood Case

NC3011140295 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1330 GMT 30 Nov 95

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Cairo, 30 Nov (MENA)— The Higher Military Court today handed down its verdict in the Muslim Brotherhood case in Suez. The case involves three defendants. The court sentenced two of the defendants, Hilmi al-'Azzazi, and fugitive defendant Yasir Tawfiq Sirri to 15 years imprisonment with hard labor. The court acquitted the first defendant, 'Abd-al-Wahhab Sharaf al-Din.

It should be recalled that the death sentence has been passed against fugitive defendant, Yasir, in the case involving the assassination attempt of Prime Minister Dr. 'Atif Sidqi. [passage omitted]

Libya

'Diplomatic Source': NFSL Killed Oppositionist

MM3011142395 London AL-HAYAH in Arabic 30 Nov 95 p 6

[Report by Muhammad 'Allam: "Libya Accuses Salvation Front of Assassinating Oppositionist in London"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Cairo — A Libyan diplomatic source in Cairo has accused the National Front for the Salvation of Libya [NFSL] of assassinating Libyan oppositionist 'Ali Abu-Zayd in London a few days ago. The source told AL-HAYAH that "the so-called National Front felt that Abu-Zayd was about to return to Libya after realizing the falsehood of the opposition organizations abroad."

He revealed that Abu-Zayd had contacts with Libyan officials "during which he expressed his wish to return." The source said: "The opposition is a group of stray dogs killing one another for fear that their true face might be exposed, especially as its members have become tools and puppets, receiving their instructions from foreign intelligence."

The source linked Abu-Zayd's assassination to Libyan-British security cooperation. The source said that "they sensed a rapprochement, so they decided to sour relations by assassinating Abu-Zayd." The source said that "his country insists on identifying the perpetrators and demands that they receive the maximum punishment, on the grounds that Abu-Zayd is a Libyan citizen and Libya does not accept any harm to its citizens abroad, regardless of their affiliations." The source pointed out that the Libyan authorities have informed the British authorities of their wish to participate in the investigation.

Meanwhile, Muhammad Fayid Jibril, representative of the NFSL in Cairo, has said that "the lives of Libyan oppositionists and refugees in Egypt are in danger as long as (Libyan leader Mu'ammar) al-Qadhdhafi continues to pursue the method of murdering his political opponents abroad." He stressed that the "danger is there," pointing out that "the mystery behind the disappearance of the Libyan oppositionist and former Foreign Minister Mansur al- Kikhya remains unsolved." He disappeared in Cairo in December 1993.

He said: "We thank the Egyptian authorities and President Husni Mubarak for giving us shelter and protecting our lives on Egyptian territory. But he who kills his opponents and abducts al-Kikhya will not hesitate to repeat what he has done as long as he escapes punishment, since that will encourage him to repeat his actions."

Jibril accused the Libyan authorities of assassinating Abu-Zayd, an opposition leader, in London Sunday [26

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November]. He said that the Libyan authorities "have not resumed the policy of assassinating oppositionists inasmuch as this policy is a continuing one, but has recently been focusing on those inside the country."

It had been reported that the Egyptian authorities rejected four months ago a Libyan request for the extradition of oppositionists residing in Egypt, among them Jibril, on the pretext that they have fundamentalist Islamic leanings.

JANA: Clinton Visits Belfast; Cause 'Just'

LD3011131595 Tripoli JANA in Arabic 1200 GMT 30 Nov 95

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Belfast, 30 Nov — The U.S. President has arrived in Belfast, in Northern Ireland, on the first visit of its kind by a U.S. President to Northern Ireland. [passage omitted]

The international affairs editor of the Jamahiriyah News Agency [JANA] has commented on the visit of the U.S. President to Northern Ireland and his meeting with officials of the IRA by saying that this visit comes after a long series of talks held some time ago by the British Government with the IRA, conducting secret negotiations with the IRA leaders while it openly accused this Army and all those connected with it as terrorist. [passage omitted]

The editor added that these successive events prove the justness of the cause of the people of Northern Ireland. [passage omitted]

The JANA international affairs editor said: Here we recall what the brother leader had stressed before the masses of al-Zawiyah on 16 January 1993 — that England is colonialist and should leave Northern Ireland; this is what the al-Fatih revolution has been saying over the past 25 years.

Mauritania

Authorities Ignore Libya's Protest of Israeli Ties

AB3011122095 Dakar PANA in French 1907 GMT 29 Nov 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Nouakchott, Mauritania (PANA) [dateline as received] — Mauritanian authorities have not reacted officially to the Libyan protest following the establishment of diplomatic relations between Nouakchott and Tel-Aviv. Contacted by PANA, Mauritanian official circles refused to react to the communique issued by the Libyan People's Committee for Unity, which condemned Mauritania's position on Israel.

Observers have pointed out that the Mauritanian authorities had never reacted to Tripoli's multiple criticisms since the rapprochement between Mauritanian and Israeli diplomats. They added that it was only once that the official Mauritanian News Agency published an editorial violently attacking Libyan leaders and Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi personally. It accused them of interfering in matters that did not concern them, denying them the right to dictate Mauritania's foreign policy.

Senior government aides said they were "shocked by Tripoli's propensity to give lessons to their country", explaining that Libyan statements stemmed from "changes of mood and the effects of international isolation."

Mauritanians themselves reacted coldly to the 28 November announcement of the establishment of diplomatic relations between their country and Israel. In fact, the decision was expected as the logical conclusion to the process of rapprochement that has been going on between the two countries for several months.

News Agency Attacks al-Qadhdhafi's Stance

LD0112001695 Nouakchott ORTM Radio in Arabic 1900 GMT 30 Nov 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Ladies and gentlemen, dear listeners, before starting the details of the news, here is the commentary of the MAURITANIAN NEWS AGENCY written today, Thursday, under the title 'Al-Qadhdhafi Expresses Double Standards':

It has become superfluous to stress that the creation of inner conflicts and sowing the seeds of difference and disunity is the main source of all afflictions the Arab nation has suffered from and is still suffering from. The objective of these actions was to undermine all efforts aiming at reconciliation and coordination between the Arab states in order to create a weight of opinion and consideration for this nation on the international scene, at a level aspired to by its sons and compatible with its potential, resources, and strategic position.

It is also superfluous to say that everyone concedes that [Libyan leader Mu'ammar] al-Qadhdhafi was and still is, with his wavering stands, his suspect ambitions, and his childish behavior, devoting all his energy and all his country's resources to the sowing of the seeds of hatred and disunity among the ranks of the brothers.

His recent and indiscriminate attacks against the Arab states are nothing but an expression of this firm reality. These are stances which have no reward to its initiator but failure and isolation.

However, we shall admit to Colonel al-Qadhdhafi, who is famous for wavering and swinging, that he has proven the firmness of his stance regarding Mauritania, because what he said yesterday was a repetition of what he

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had said previously and an affirmation of his hostile stance regarding our country, for which we can find no justification other than being the exception that proves the rule.

Mauritania's firm stance regarding the Palestinian issue is known and recognized by all, and among the first who appreciate it fully are the brother Palestinians themselves. It is a principled stance which has no room for slogans and abuse; a stance that is far removed from the methods and attitude of those who are professionals at bargaining and empty speeches, because they are not good at anything else.

However, al-Qadhdhafi is not the best person to talk about the Palestinian problem or to defend it.

People who do not have short memories should remember recent developments. At the time [al-Qadhdhafi] was forcibly expelling thousands of Palestinians and meddling into their sovereign decisions, he was courting people to mediate between himself and Israel. Well, does he or does he not himself remember asking the Turkish prime minister to forge a rapprochement between himself and Israel?. And in doing so, was he holding a knife in one hand and prayer bead in the other?

The Palestinians have accepted the peace process on their own accord; the majority of Arab countries have also done so. Undoubtedly, they have every right not to listen to the views advocated by someone who, because of his own views, has become a pariah and brought upon his own people problems and calamities.

Nonetheless, here one should ask why al-Qadhdhafi has directed his venom against Mauritania and adopted such a double standard?

Also, one should feel sorry for the suffering of the fraternal Libyan people because of al-Qadhdhafi's behavior, which is the depiction of his failures inside his own country and his isolation outside. It also stems from his disappointment for not being invited to the European-Mediterranean conference in Barcelona.

The Arab character of Mauritania does not need the blessing of someone who has only concocted problems for the rest of Arabs in their own countries and brought world animosity against them.

The Arab character of Mauritania and its roots were established long before al-Qadhdhafi; they will remain untarnished after him. His garbage will not harm them.

Like the rest of the Arab brothers who are used to al-Qadhdhafi's erratic behavior and his garbage, we no longer care for his gratuitous behavior. Rather, we feel very sorry for the fraternal Libyan people who have to pay dearly for such policies which have given them a bad picture and tarnished their reputation abroad.

Sudan

Al-Bashir Addresses Rally on 'Foreign Aggression'

EA3011122395 Omdurman Republic of Sudan Radio Network in Arabic 1900 GMT 29 Nov 95

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Lieutenant General 'Umar Hasan al-Bashir, president of the Republic, has affirmed that Sudan is capable of repulsing the enemies and routing their stooge forces in all positions.

His Excellency called on the Sudanese nation to head for training camps to prepare the necessary forces to repulse the foreign aggression and foil those conspiring against the country's unity and security.

Addressing a mass rally in al-Fashashawyah area, in Kosti province today, Lieutenant General 'Umar al-Bashir said the Mujahidin who supported Imam al-Mahdi were capable of inflicting defeat on whoever has plans against the country's cultural course. He said there was a readiness to offer martyr after martyr for the sake of elevating the word: There Is No God But Allah: and For the Sake of Defending the Homeland's (?Soil). The president affirmed that the National Salvation Revolution did not (?erupt) for the sake of power and government but to choose God's law as the judge and preserve the country's unity from hateful partisanship and denominationalism. [passage omitted].

Omdurman University Closed Following Clashes

MM3011154395 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 30 Nov 95 pp 1, 4

[Report by 'Uthman Mirghani]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] London, Cairo, AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT — Sudanese student sources have said that the authorities yesterday closed Omdurman University following the clashes that occurred there the day before yesterday among groups of students, in which bullets, Molotov cocktails, and cold steel were used. The sources said that the police, who surrounded the university in Omdurman, turned back students who went to the university yesterday, telling them that the university was closed.

Neither the education authorities in Khartoum nor the university's administration have officially announced the university's closure — which means that the step to close the university yesterday was taken for security reasons and for a limited period. Informed sources have said that some 23 students were wounded in the clashes. [passage omitted]

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Article Says Gulf Countries Face Hard Choices

96AE0001A London AL-HAYAH in Arabic 28 Sep 95 p 17

[Article by Shafiq Nazim al-Ghabra, associate professor of political science at Kuwait University]

[FBIS Translated Text] After the second Gulf war, we cannot view what happens in one Gulf state (economic or political crises, major or minor disturbances) as an isolated and insignificant development, because the Gulf states are united by fate. Their government systems and economies are similar. Just as problems in one Gulf state affect all the Gulf states, so do accomplishments and reforms, because the regimes and the problems facing them are similar. The Iraqi invasion of Kuwait has caused interaction among the Gulf states, depleted their resources, changed their oil status, and created a new security role for the United States and the world community in the Gulf. The Gulf states faced new political and cultural challenges. They faced a new stage that demanded more serious steps to develop their media, economies, and administrations; tackle their budget deficits; and undertake new burdens. This demanded that they economize on power consumption and invest in time and effort. However, the Gulf states are facing many difficulties in dealing with all these new challenges, which developed after changes had taken place in their economic, political, security, and international situations. They also developed after years of learning the wrong habits of not planning when they had abundant resources and wealth.

The development of wrong habits during the oil boom meant that change and reform now will not be easy. The era of abundance in the Gulf states created individual and collective needs, which will not be easy to curtail. It created a dependence on the state, which will not be possible to reduce. It will not be easy for a person who developed a habit of going abroad every year for a vacation or who developed a certain spending habit to change such habits. A person who was used to receiving financial benefits and regular increases in his salary will find it difficult to pay taxes and share the burdens of budget and development with the state.

The Gulf states are facing two types of problems: The first is caused by the attempt to change old habits through economic, administrative, structural, educational, and political reforms. The second is caused by the slow pace of these reforms. Thus, the Gulf states are facing a new and serious challenge: If they waited for the economic situation to improve and did nothing to introduce structural, political, electoral, social, and economic reforms, they will be overtaken by time and the challenges will stack up. If they speed up the reforms and change, they could produce young forces that would strongly defy their present government structure and policies. They could also produce traditional forces that would oppose modernization under any circumstances. This can lead to internal tension, anger, and sometimes open protest. These are the major challenges facing the Gulf states, which must find a balance between quiet change and inaction.

One pressing factor for change, from bottom to top, in the Gulf states has been the existence of a young generation that has many demands caused by its exposure to a different world. In other words, we have a generation crisis, which must be reflected in the policy, the transfer of authority, and appointments. We have many student graduates in the Gulf pressing for employment and a secure future. More than 60 percent of the Gulf states' population is less than 20 years old. There is no doubt that the difficulty of employing, satisfying, and creating job opportunities for the young generation (as in the past) will contribute to its politicization and perhaps increase its political involvement and demands for more rights. The young generation in the Gulf could become more insistent in the future on the implementation of reforms to essentially create more justice, more respect for the individual's rights, and more neutrality by the state. The young generation in the Gulf states is searching for a role. This generation studied and learned in an atmosphere of prosperity and was fortunate to view the world from a different angle.

Reform should be encouraged because the Gulf is one of a few areas in the Third World where its politicians have distanced the army from politics. The continuation of this separation is an important guarantee for a peaceful transition to reform and progress. However, it demands special awareness of the importance of developing the Gulf armies on professional and military levels to enhance their unpoliticized role in defending the Gulf states. One unnoticed change in the Gulf states, since the second Gulf war, has been the process of building skilled, effective, and more technologically advanced armies. The building of armies based on educated middle class people will produce a professional military establishment in the beginning of the next decade that will have a role, opinion, and visualization.

The current calls for reform and development in the Gulf states are based on the Gulf's need to protect itself against the types of tyranny that have emerged in Arab and non-Arab countries during the past decades. Reform is the only way to protect monarchies and the Gulf emirates' systems—one of a few hereditary systems in the world—against military dictatorship, party domination, extremism, or terrorism. Perhaps a study of the British experiment, with all its mistakes

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and opportunities, can show the possibilities of reform. However, every type of reform demands a special understanding of the circumstances in the country and the region and the needs of the people. The coming few years could be decisive in the success or failure of this policy.

New generations, new problems, and new responsibilities are being born in the Gulf. They demand involvement by the people; they demand institutions built by people enjoying more freedom and responsibility; they demand a private sector enjoying greater freedom from government restrictions and bureaucracy. The Gulf seems to be heading toward changes, which could take time and effort throughout this decade. The democratic experiment in Kuwait and the democratic demands in Bahrain are manifestations of a new situation under new conditions. The Saudi administrative reforms and new appointments are part of this trend. The situation is no less important in Qatar, which witnessed a major change a few weeks ago. The same applies to the modernization efforts in Oman and the United Arab Emirates. It is a new stage whose features have not crystallized yet. It reflects the profound domestic challenges, which can occasionally intersect with the profound external security challenges. Anyway, a mature handling of the domestic problems could be, in the end, the best way to deal with all the types of external security challenges.

Bahrain

Article: Dim View of Regional Development Bank

96AE0004A London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 25 Oct 95 p 10

[Article by Hasan Muhammad Zayn al-'Abidin, first vice president of the Bahrain Chamber of Commerce and Industry]

[FBIS Translated Text] Final preparations are currently under way for the Amman economic summit, which will begin next Saturday, based on the recommendation of the Casablanca summit. The Casablanca summit, held in late 1993, examined a proposal to establish a Mideast regional economic cooperation zone encompassing the North African and Middle Eastern countries. Participants in the Casablanca summit believed that the establishment of such an economic bloc would require special elements responsible for organizing economic activity, the main ones being a "Middle East Bank for Development," a joint chamber of commerce that would embrace the public and private sectors in the Mideast countries, a regional tourism promotion council, and a joint business council. The summit also recommended the establishment of a multigovernmental committee to achieve these goals and a technical secretariat for monitoring based in Rabat. It also welcomed the establishment of a foreign relations council for the Economic Strategy Group of Middle Eastern and North African countries and the formation of an international economic forum for the Business Persons Exchange Group to support contacts and exchanges between business persons in the region and to make recommendations to the multigovernmental committee.

The Casablanca summit's results and recommendations notwithstanding, the summit in essence poses major challenges to the institutions of joint Arab economic activity. These challenges must be confronted vigorously to ensure that national and regional Arab, economic interests are not damaged. However, before we go further, let us pause briefly to shed some light on the proposal to establish a Middle East bank for development. That proposal will probably be in the forefront of projects to be discussed at length at the Amman economic summit—to pave the way for its implementation as quickly as possible, especially following the reservations that it faced at the Casablanca summit. Hence, we will discuss the idea of establishing the bank, the essence of its proposed activities, various opinions regarding it, and its effects on joint Arab economic activity and the overall development of the Mideast countries. This discussion will allow us to form some ideas on the best alternative that can further Arab economic interests and help develop organizations involved in joint, Arab activity.

Idea of the Establishment of the Bank

The idea of establishing a regional financial organization for Mideast development first arose in the initial phases of the multilateral negotiations between the Arab parties and Israel held in Madrid in 1991. It was thought that such an organization would help normalize relations between the two sides by mobilizing investment funds and channeling them to develop the Mideast. The idea of such an enterprise is thus as old as the proposal to develop a "Mideast Market," which is addressed in the so-called "new Marshall Plan," which proposes that the seven, large industrial countries, headed by the United States, provide about $20 billion to help develop the Mideast region. Without going into the many details of one plan or another, it can be said that the "Harvard Group" adopted the idea of establishing a "Middle East Bank for Development." It also published numerous articles and studies treating the goals, functions, and probable responsibilities of such a bank. It envisaged that the bank would aim to "strengthen the foundations of peace and political dialogue between the region's countries." It said that it is important to create a financial organization that "can promote new investments" in the region's countries and obtain additional financial sources from

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international markets (as opposed to just reorganizing, coordinating, or supporting the use of available financial sources) to: finance development projects in individual Middle Eastern countries and regional projects involving companies active in communications, agriculture, water desalinization, energy, and transportation; develop free trade in the region; limit government's role in the economy; and provide the private sector with a greater role in the development process.

Regarding the scope of the proposed bank's likely functions, it was said that the bank would help "strengthen relations of cooperation between the region's countries and economic organizations operating in them, play a coordinating role in relations between these countries and the World Bank and IMF, and achieve cooperation between the region's countries with the goal of opening European and other international markets to Mideast goods and services. It was also said that the bank would strive to implement policies needed to promote trade between the region's countries and to attract greater foreign investments.

The idea of establishing such a bank with about $5 billion in capital and $1.25 billion in paid-up capital was discussed at the Casablanca Summit; lending was to be at market or commercial rates. Since the Casablanca Summit, the focus has been on discussing aspects of the establishment of the bank and implementation of the idea as quickly as possible. Numerous founding meetings have been held in Washington with the participation of delegations from about 30 countries and international and regional financing organizations.

However, a clear, well-defined picture of a plan for establishing such a bank has yet to emerge. Nor is there any clarity regarding such a bank's likely activities, the areas in which it would provide financing, its economic feasibility, its capital sources, and its operating regulations and procedures.

Difference of Opinions

There are different opinions regarding the economic feasibility of establishing a bank, its effect on economic development in the region's countries, and the benefits that its establishment would yield. There are two main lines in this regard—that of the countries which support, and that of the countries which oppose, the establishment of a Middle East bank for development.

The countries that support the proposal—chief among which are the United States, several European countries, Egypt, Jordan, and the Palestinian National Authority—believe that economic development represents the essence of regional development. They thus believe that it is important to establish a bank that would have auspices over this development, on the model of the European Bank for Development and Reconstruction, which has achieved great success in the regional development of the East European countries. They also believe that it is important for the Mideast region to have a development bank that operates on a regional basis and serves as a foundation and pivot for peace in the region. They believe that the establishment of such a bank represents "the best formula for cooperation" in the financial and economic spheres between the region's countries, for the following reasons:

- The proposed bank can operate side by side with existing Arab financing funds and organizations; it should, therefore, not be expected to jeopardize their survival or progress.
- Such a bank could help enhance economic cohesion and cooperation and increase the flow of goods and services between the region's countries.
- Several countries of the region are adopting ambitions economic and financial reform programs to boost output, achieve balanced budgets, lower inflation, improve their balance of payments, increase exports, create jobs, improve living standards, and strengthen citizens' purchasing power. The achievement of these objectives requires diversified sources to finance economic projects. These sources can be mobilized through the bank.

However, the proposal to establish the bank faces strong opposition on the part of several countries, chief among which are the Gulf countries, several countries of the European Union, and Syria. Their opposition to the establishment of the bank is based on the following:

- Some Gulf countries believe that the establishment of the bank will not be in the interest of the Arab countries' economies. Rather, it will function, they maintain, to provide financing to Israel alone and to help open Arab markets to Israeli products, goods, and services, with the ultimate aim of linking the Arab economy to the Israeli economy.
- There is no economic utility in establishing other financial organizations in the region, given the existence of numerous Arab and Islamic financing organizations in the region, e.g., the Arab Monetary Fund, the Arab Fund for Economic and Social Development, Arab trade financing programs, Arab investment guarantee organizations, the African Development Bank, the Islamic Development Bank, and the development funds of Kuwait, Saudi Arabia, Iraq, and Libya. These organizations suffice. There is, therefore, no need to establish new financial organizations that would conduct similar operations.

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- Some countries of the European Union believe that the proposed bank would not be useful, because the European Investment Bank associated with the Union performs the same functions that the proposed bank would be expected to perform. Also, some countries of the European Union are highly fearful that establishment of the bank would give the United States exclusive influence over the strategic economies of the countries in, and neighboring, the Mideast.
- Some countries of the European Union also believe that it is possible to create an alternate mechanism that would finance and promote major regional projects in the Mideast and North African countries. Unlike a bank, it would not be a bureaucratic organization bearing large financial burdens. Rather, it would have limited financial functions—e.g., mobilization of financial sources, issuance of bonds, management of funds, and promotion of investment projects—pertaining to the management of financing operations for each project. Such an organization would integrate financing and promotion.
- Several officials in the European Legation have raised many questions and doubts regarding the need for such a bank at a time when the European Union is playing an important role in providing investments and loan facilities to the region's countries, including the occupied territories, in the form of direct aid from the European Union's budget or in the form of loans from the European Investment Bank. Therefore, a new bank is not needed. What are needed are financial instruments to channel available funds to the region's countries.

Alternatives to a Regional Bank

Supporters and opponents of the establishment of a regional bank have their arguments and justifications. In our view, many questions surround the economic feasibility of such a bank and the benefits it would yield to the Arab countries. These questions become more pointed if we take into account the following points:

- There are numerous, long-established, existing national and regional organizations with financing expertise. They play a primary role in financing development projects in the region's countries. They include, for example: the IMF; the World Bank and its associated organizations, including the International Finance Corporation (which loans to the private sector) and the International Development Association (which provides loans to the developing countries at nominal interest rates); and Arab financing organizations that provide soft loans and credit facilities with generous grace periods to the Arab countries.
- Despite the lack of clarity surrounding the establishment of the proposed bank and its objectives and financing sources, the commonly held view is that most of the bank's capital would come from the Arab region in general and the wealthy Arab countries in particular. Thus, the bank would not in fact be helping to provide new funding sources from outside the region, as some claim. The percentage of outside sources would be meager and not in proportion to the bank's numerous activities. This would ultimately affect the amount of assistance provided to low-income Arab countries by the Arab countries that enjoy financial surpluses and by the United States, Western Europe, and Japan.
- A regional bank for development would be tantamount to a major tool for imposing the normalization of economic relations with Israel on the Arab countries. This, when a just, comprehensive peace in the region, the reinstatement of rights, and the return of Arab territory have yet to be achieved. The establishment of the bank would thus weaken the peace process, the Arab negotiating position, and joint Arab economic organizations.
- Many specialized and nonspecialized banks operate in many Mideast countries. These banks have large financial surpluses that cannot be used in these countries, for numerous reasons, including: a lack of laws regulating foreign investment, which are needed to attract investments; the lengthy measures required to obtain approval for investment projects; and other factors that help attract foreign investments and affect the decisionmaking mood. For example, only two months ago, Arab countries nationalized Arab companies active in the sugar and agriculture industries without taking into account, or attaching importance to, the extent to which this move violated their own domestic laws, regulations, and legislation regulating international investment activity. Such actions are certain to put a damper on foreign investment in these countries. Also, most of the region's countries suffer from a lack of economic feasibility studies on projects and investment opportunities that would help attract foreign investment capital. Hence, the establishment of a Middle East bank for development can be expected to benefit Israel in terms of investment regulations and guarantees, administrative organizations, etc., which would create an investment climate more suited to the attraction of foreign capital to Israel at the expense of most of the countries in the region.

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Given the current international climate and the challenges facing joint Arabic economic activity, it is essential for the Arab countries to work to achieve the following:

- The streamlining of existing Arab financing organizations, Arab investment guarantee organizations, and joint Arab economic organizations. This will enable them to more effectively meet the coming challenges in the region. Cohesion and coordination must be developed to prevent redundancy and conflict between these organizations. It is also necessary to enhance existing banks' project-funding role and to prepare a favorable investment climate to absorb the financial surpluses of these banks and organizations.
- Full exploitation of the drawing rights available to the Arab countries in the IMF and other international financing organizations to finance economic and social development projects in the Arab countries.
- Joint, Arab, economic activity is the primary mechanism for dealing with the current international challenges. It requires making every possible effort to formulate a comprehensive, clear, Arab strategy that streamlines and defines the directions of joint Arab economic activity among the Arab parties. With this goal in mind, it is important to revive the idea of creating a "common Arab market." This would be an important first step toward achieving serious, large-scale, highly sustainable Arab economic activity and balance in confronting international challenges. Efforts must also be made to establish a unified, Arab economic policy for dealing with the external world and international and regional economic blocs so as to protect Arab economic interests and ensure balanced economic relations that serve the interests of all concerned parties. The Arab countries possess the human, financial, mineral, and agricultural resources and capabilities that will enable them to achieve these goals.

Saudi Arabia

King Fahd's Medical Tests Called 'Reassuring'

LD3011184895 Riyadh SPA in Arabic
1815 GMT 30 Nov 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Riyadh, 30 Nov — Royal Court Communique:

Further to the communique issued this morning on King Fahd Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz Al Saud, the custodian of the two holy mosques, entering King Faysal specialized hospital in Riyadh to have some ordinary medical check-ups: We have the pleasure to announce that all the tests carried out today on the custodian of the two holy mosques were reassuring, thanks be to God, and he is enjoying, may God protect him, good health and well being.

May God protect the beloved king from every discomfort and bestow on him full health and well being.

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KDP Views Outcome of U.S. Mediation Team Visit

JN3011193995 (Clandestine) Voice of Iraqi Kurdistan in Arabic 1800 GMT 30 Nov 95

[FBIS Translated Text] An expanded meeting was held at the request of the Central Organization Bureau of our party. The meeting brought together members of the Kurdistan Democratic Party [KDP] Central Committee; alternate members of the KDP Central Committee; KDP representatives in the region's government; and brothers Sami 'Abd-al-Rahman, Hushayr Zibari, and Muhsin Zaki, who are involved in the peace process.

The meeting was intended to update the KDP brother leaders on the latest developments in the peace process, our KDP delegation's stand, and the outcome of the most recent visit to Kurdistan by a U.S. delegation.

At the outset of the meeting, brother Fadil Mirani, member of the KDP Political Bureau, spoke with the members of the KDP delegation to the talks. Afterward, brothers Sami 'Abd-al-Rahman and Hushayr Zibari, members of the KDP Political Bureau, and the brother members of the delegation to the peace talks discussed the progress of the talks and our party's position toward them as well as the efforts made by the mediation team. Our party's positive attitude toward the U.S. plan was also discussed. The conferees underlined our party's firm call for peace, security, and stability, and also for rehabilitating legitimacy in Kurdistan.

Talabani, Shalabi Discuss 'Special Force'

NC2811185795 (Clandestine) Voice of the People of Kurdistan in Arabic 1500 GMT 28 Nov 95

[FBIS Translated Text] At his office in Irbil yesterday brother Jalal Talabani, secretary general of the Patriotic Union of Kurdistan, received Dr. Ahmad Shalabi, chairman of the executive committee of the Unified Iraqi National Congress. After reviewing the current situation and ways of normalizing it, they discussed the formation of a special force to defend the frontiers of the liberated areas of Kurdistan and overthrow the Baghdad regime.

KDP Denies 'Field Agreement' With al-Hakim

MM3011155495 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 30 Nov 95 p 3

[Unattributed report: "Barzani: No Field Agreement With al-Hakim"]

[FBIS Translated Text] London, AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT — The Iraqi Kurdistan Democratic Party [KDP] led by Mas'ud Barzani has denied that it has concluded a field action agreement with the Supreme Assembly of the Islamic Revolution in Iraq (a Tehran-based Iraqi opposition group led by Muhammad Baqir al-Hakim).

A spokesman for the party said in a statement, of which AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT received a copy yesterday from Salah al-Din in north Iraq, that "while the party stresses its brotherly bilateral relations with the Supreme Assembly since its establishment, we announce that our party has not entered into any field agreement. We also confirm that no tripartite meeting has been held regarding any field agreement."

The spokesman said that "[setting up] any other axis (in the Iraqi opposition) or field action that is military in nature under the regrettable current fragmentation in Iraqi opposition ranks, especially in the light of the deep domestic crisis in Iraqi Kurdistan, would add further complications and problems to the opposition's deteriorating situation."

INA cited Muhammad Baqir al-Hakim last week as saying that "the Badr Forces'" entry into northern Iraq from Iranian territory was in accordance with "a field agreement" signed with the KDP and the Patriotic Union of Kurdistan (led by Jalal Talabani) during a tripartite meeting that grouped representatives from the three parties in the Iranian capital, Tehran, early in the year.

'Pretender' to Iraqi Throne Assails King Husayn

LD2911224695 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 2049 GMT 29 Nov 95

[FBIS Translated Text] London, 29 Nov (KUNA) — The pretender to the Iraqi throne, al-Sharif [title held by members of the Hashemite family] 'Ali Bin al-Husayn, strongly criticized here today the recent contacts made by King Husayn of Jordan with some Iraqi opposition groups with a view to hosting them for a conference in Amman.

Al-Sharif 'Ali, who is a member of the Hashemite family to which King Husayn belongs, told KUNA that the recent Jordanian move constituted a threat to Iraq. He said that what King Husayn was doing: "Is raising our concern regarding his country's intentions and his plans are a threat to the future of Iraq."

Al-Sharif Ali asked: "Is the aim to stir up the antagonisms created by Saddam Husayn's regime...? And does King Husayn want to rekindle these fires?"

It has been reported that King Husayn has made contact with some Iraqi opposition groups during his recent private visit to London with a view to holding a meeting with some prominent opposition figures in Amman.

Al-Sharif Ali, who leads an organization called the Iraqi Constitutional Monarchy Movement, said that the Iraqi

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people: "Reject King Husayn's moves and see them as perilous."

He said that there had not been any contacts between him and King Husayn for many years because: "We oppose his stance regarding Iraq."

Al-Sharif said that there were no disputes between the various Iraqi groups and sects, their disputes were with Saddam Husayn's regime.

Al-Sharif 'Ali went on to say that Iraqis did not want tutelage or advice from outsiders and that the Iraqi people wanted to remove Saddam Husayn who was perched over them. He described Jordan's interference as unacceptable and said that it would not succeed. He said: "According to our information, the reaction of Iraqis is not one of satisfaction with the Jordanian move."

Al-Sharif 'Ali said: "Sincere Iraqis are also refusing to participate in any opposition conference in Jordan and those who would attend the conference would merely be opportunists and we would advise them not to attend."

He pointed out that the real opposition would be inside Iraq, not in Amman or any other place.

Al-Sharif believes that King Husayn's plan aims at: "Diverting the attention of the Iraqis and the world from the Iraqi regime."

He strongly rejected any plans for federalism or confederation between Jordan and Iraq. He said that the issue was premature and that the Iraqi people totally rejected a confederation with Jordan.

It is worth noting that al-Sharif 'Ali has called for a referendum on constitutional monarchy to be held after the removal of Saddam Husayn's rule.

Ambassador Urges UN Security Council Reforms

JN2911211995 Baghdad Iraq Television Network in Arabic 2000 GMT 29 Nov 95

[Announcer-read report]

[FBIS Translated Text] Iraq has called for substantial reforms in the operational methods of the UN Security Council to restore its credibility and rectify the defect which has befallen it over the past five years.

Iraq also stressed the need for the UN General Assembly to assume the responsibilities of the Security Council to prevent the adoption of serious unilateral resolutions. In some of its resolutions, which were far from the UN Charter and spirit, the Security Council bypassed the responsibilities of the UN General Assembly stipulated in the UN Charter.

This was stated in Iraq's speech delivered today to the UN General Assembly by Ambassador Nizar Hamdun, Iraq's permanent delegate at the United Nations. The Assembly had met to discuss item No. 11 on its agenda regarding the annual report it has received from the Security Council.

In his speech, Ambassador Hamdun criticized the report for lacking substantive issues, failing to assess this year's developments, and restricting itself to the topics the Security Council discussed.

Paper Accuses Kuwait of Inflating MIA Figures

JN3011112495 Baghdad AL-THAWRAH in Arabic 23 Nov 95 p 2

["Standpoint" column by Mu'ayyad 'Abd-al-Zahrah: "Cheap Lies"]

[FBIS Translated Text] The question of missing persons in action [MIA's] is an international humanitarian issue for which there are laws and regulations, as well as organizations and committees with the special task of following up on and investigating this issue. So, there are still many outstanding cases under investigation.

One example are the MIA's since World War II, the U.S. Korea and Vietnam Wars, and the Arab wars with the Zionist entity in June 1967 and October 1973. And there are still a large number of MIA's since the Iraq-Iran War. Now, while all these wars are over for a long time, their MIA issues have not been completely resolved. Many MIA cases are still being investigated through the International Committee of the Red Cross [ICRC] and also bilaterally between the parties concerned.

We are stating these facts, which are common knowledge to most people, due to the tragi-comic situation which is being created over the so-called Kuwaiti MIA issue. Now and again, Kuwaiti government officials come up with lies and fallacies over this issue and level false accusations against Iraq in the context of fabricating a cheap problem — and, we will not say in harmony with the Kuwaiti regime's role in the U.S. Zionist aggressive plan of making up excuses so as to prolong the blockade. These officials have become accustomed to over-exaggerating the issue and blowing it up out of all proportions to almost a ridiculous level. Salim al-Sabah, head of the so-called National Committee for Kuwaiti MIA's, claimed in a statement on 20 November that Iraq acknowledged 126 out of the 625 prisoners and MIA's, and that Kuwait had succeeded through its international moves in forcing Iraq to attend the meetings of the Tripartite Committee formed for this purpose, thereby achieving a strategic victory!!

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The first fact which we would like to underscore is that the Kuwaiti regime's MIA figures are astronomical. They make openly conflicting statements until they arrive at some specific figure. Even this last figure is not accurate. Iraq has made it clear that it does not have the prisoners they claim, since it has repatriated all prisoners, whether Kuwaitis or other nationals, under the supervision of the ICRC. Work is in progress since the late March 1991; that is, since the repatriation of the prisoners, in order to investigate the fate of MIA's only.

The second fact is that the Tripartite Committee meetings were the result of an Iraqi initiative. It was Iraq which called for these meetings, which the Kuwaiti regime tried to evade several times. Furthermore, the Tripartite Committee on the MIA's and its affiliate Technical Subcommittee, which operates under the ICRC chairmanship, have confirmed that Iraq is cooperating in full harmony with established international standards and rules in this regard.

The third fact is that the records of these two committees prove categorically that the number of MIA cases being investigated are 603 and not 625, as the so-called Salim al-Sabah claims, and that Iraq has supplied information on the results of the initial search for the MIA's, in addition to handling a number of other cases, which have so far reached 300.

Indeed, making lies and empty claims is common and cheap and does not serve anyone, since the documented facts, which are known to and certified by the ICRC, are bigger than all the lies which the Kuwaiti regime releases from time to time.

Blockade Said Unlikely To Cause 'Rebellion'

MM2911090695 London AL-QUDS AL-'ARABI in Arabic 28 Nov 95 p 11

[Article by Mahmud Ma'ruf: "Punishing Iraqi People and Their Aspirations"]

[FBIS Translated Text] It seems that there are no prospects on the horizon of lifting the blockade on Iraq, because the blockade and the lifting of the blockade are linked to a complicated set of issues, some of which are directly linked to Iraq but most of which are to do with conditions in the region. All of these issues are linked to U.S. interests. The lifting of the blockade depends entirely on a U.S. decision. The United Nations — specifically with regard to the lifting of the blockade — is no more than a framework for formulating and announcing such a decision. Just as all world states assigned Washington to settle the Arab-Israeli conflict, they also assigned it to follow up the Iraqi file and to take the decision suitable for it and for its interests, and the Iraqi people must bear the punishment for their history, wealth, and values. Because — according to the U.S. Administration — loyalty to history, the safeguarding of wealth, and adherence to values conflict with the new world order the United States intends to establish after the end of the Cold War.

Five years of blockade on Iraq prove that [Iraq's] entry into Kuwait was a golden opportunity for the United States to punish and destroy legitimate Iraqi aspirations. And the successive resolutions adopted by the UN Security Council since the Gulf crisis started in August 1990 were not all associated with Kuwait and the Iraqi forces' entry into Kuwait. They were all aimed at isolating Iraq from its environment and stripping it of its Arab influence in order to reduce what is left of the Arab resistance against occupations and hegemony.

If the blockade has succeeded in achieving these aims, lifting it before the U.S. scheme against the region has been completed and the domination of its wealth, especially oil, secured, would confuse the issue and threaten all that Washington has achieved. Despite the ferocity of the war against its Army and buildings and the harsh blockade imposed on its people, Baghdad has not raised the white flag or handed Washington the golden key. This is why it is in the U.S. interests to continue the blockade on Iraq.

If it is ridiculous to talk now about contradictions between the United States and most Arab states, it is painful that the U.S. scheme against Iraq should be supported by some Arab rulers, either as a reprisal or on the basis of selfish interests, without taking account of the interests of their peoples' posterity. Iraqi history and Iraqi wealth (human and material) do not belong to a ruler or a regime. In fact they do not belong to the Iraqi people alone. They belong to the nation as a whole. The support for the U.S. scheme by Arab rulers calling for the blockade on Iraq to be maintained proves that the interests and ambitions of these rulers conflict with the interests and aspirations of their people. Because a ruler who enjoys seeing an Iraqi child suffer from a disease for which his family cannot buy the medicine, or an elderly man surrender to death to spare the cost of medicine for his family, cannot be interested in any of his people's concerns and aspirations. Instead of working to alleviate the suffering of the Iraqi people and safeguard their human dignity, the rulers calling for continuing the blockade on Iraq or partitioning it as one solution are inclined to seek help from the Americans and pay bribes to suppress and bury any initiative prompted by the Arab conscience toward Iraq, which has done a great deal for the nation from Nouakchott to Manama.

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What the Iraqis are requesting now — and they are aware of the situation in the region and the world — is nothing more than medicine and food. If spiteful Arab rulers are seeking to humiliate the Iraqis to the point of annihilating them, the other Arabs — and they are numerous — can contribute the minimum to make the Iraqis feel that their nation has not abandoned them. That would be a simple way of returning the favor to this people. Thus, launching an Arab campaign by Arab organizations and governments to send convoys of food and medicine would not be a violation of international legitimacy, which everyone is terrified to violate, and would have nothing to do with the resolutions concerning the destruction of Iraqi weapons, the Ekeus commission, or the Security Council. Shipments of sugar, wheat, and medicine have reached Iraq from Arab capitals. Their delivery has been welcomed by the Iraqis but has alarmed some rulers. None of them has expressed his feeling openly, because these rulers are aware that expressing their spiteful feeling would be condemned.

Some people continue to deal with the Iraqi people with the same mentality they use when dealing with Iraqi policy. And they do not conceal their desire to punish the Iraqis because they are still clinging to their regime and have not revolted against it or replaced it with another regime that is compatible with the new world order. If this "punishment" is going to cause the Iraqi people to take revenge against whatever is around them, and if it is going to push the region into future wars and conflicts the price for which will be paid by the peoples of the region, it is erroneous for the region's rulers to believe that the blockade and the starvation and pain it is causing for the Iraqis will lead to a rebellion against the regime. Because starvation and disease have never been the cause of an Arab "revolution." In fact, historically, the citizen's feeling that his ruler has lost his dignity and is working to hand over the country to a foreigner has always been the main cause of Arab revolutions. If there are any indications of a revolution or a rebellion, Iraq is likely to be the last state in the region to have such indications, and the coming days will be eventful.

Interior Ministry Officials Acquitted of Charges

JN2911144995 Baghdad Iraq Television Network in Arabic 1200 GMT 29 Nov 95

[Announcer-read report]

[FBIS Translated Text] The National Assembly has endorsed an inquiry commission's decision not to prosecute ['adam musa'alat] Staff Major General Najm-al-Din al-Naqshabandi [senior under secretary at the Interior Ministry] and Major General Hatim 'Ali al- Khalaf for the charges brought against them.

This was stated to the IRAQI NEWS AGENCY by National Assembly Deputy Speaker Ghani 'Aziz Khadduri. He said that during its autumn session held the day before yesterday the National Assembly endorsed the inquiry commission's decision to refer Major General Hashim Muhammad Faraj, Major General Wa'd Mahmud Sulayman, and Dr. Majid Khurshid to court to be tried for all the charges brought against them.

Move Said To Avert Aid Theft Disclosures

JN3011204395 (Clandestine) Voice of Rebellious Iraq in Arabic 1830 GMT 30 Nov 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Informed sources asserted that the acquittal of the two thieves Major General Najm-al-Din al- Naqshabandi [former senior under secretary at the Ministry of Interior] and Major General Hatim 'Ali Khalaf [another former senior Interior Ministry official] of the charges brought against them was caused by pressure from figures close to the head of the regime and also by members of his family. These figures aimed to avert the disclosure of a large corruption scandal involving a group of thieves, including al-Naqshabandi and Hatim 'Ali Khalaf.

The sources added that the two defendants managed to recruit agents abroad. These agents, who are in possession of the pertinent documents, were ready to disclose details about large theft scandals, particularly those related to the theft of international humanitarian aid extended to the Iraqi people.

It should be recalled that the un-National Assembly was forced yesterday to acquit the aforesaid defendants of the charges brought against them, whereas their colleagues were sent to court on charges of illegal acquisition of lands, cars, and funds.

Housing Ministry Repairs 578 Machines, Vehicles

JN3011182195 Baghdad AL-THAWRAH in Arabic 6 Nov 95 p 4

[FBIS Translated Text] Technical and engineering teams of the Ministry of Housing and Reconstruction achieved a percentage execution of 110 percent in the "Call of the Leader" campaign for the repair of machines. Housing and Reconstruction Minister Mahmud Dhiyab al-Ahmad said the teams set out to repair 521 machines and equipment; however, thanks to their hard work they managed to repair 578 different machines and equipment within the set time limit for the campaign.

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The minister added: Depending on their creative abilities and personal efforts the teams succeeded in repairing 180 productive vehicles, 264 heavy duty machines, 105 service vehicles, and 29 special machines and equipment. Depending on Iraqi prudence also, the teams managed to repair 79 home and office appliances and equipment as well as 271 items of furniture.

Baghdad Municipality Repairs Trucks, Equipment

JN3011182595 Baghdad AL-THAWRAH in Arabic 6 Nov 95 p 4

[Report by Jum'ah Suhayl]

[FBIS Translated Text] Baghdad Municipality departments repaired 176 heavy duty machines and equipment in response to the "Call of the Leader" campaign which lasted two months. Akram 'Abbas Laftah, director general of the Administrative and Financial Affairs Department and head of the Campaign Follow-up Committee, said workers in different municipality departments worked hard day and night repairing damaged equipment, including heavy duty trucks, garbage trucks, tankers, automatic shovels, graders, trailers, and other heavy equipment.

Laftah said that the workers also repaired 672 machines and equipment, including water pumps, power generators, submersed pumps, air conditioners, refrigerators, television sets, and printers. They also repaired 574 items of furniture at the municipality headquarters and its affiliate departments and carried out maintenance work on several municipal buildings.

Laftah announced that Baghdad Municipality adopted the principle of rivalry between the departments which took part in the campaign. Performance was based on the volume and quality of work.

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Soldiers, Palestinian Youths Clash in Nabulus

'Most Violent in 2 Months'

JN3011152495 Jericho Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1400 GMT 30 Nov 95

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Scores of [Palestinian] citizens were injured in the city of Nabulus in violent clashes between youths and the Israeli occupation soldiers. More details are given in the following dispatch.

[Begin Khalil Abu-'Arab recording] Twenty three citizens were wounded in violent clashes in the city of Nabulus today. The most violent clashes took place in al-Husayn Square and Faysal Street. Youths blocked the streets with barricades and burning tires and pelted Israeli patrols with stones. Israeli soldiers responded by firing shots and rubber bullets and throwing sound grenades. Many citizens sustained various types of wounds. They were rushed to Rafidiyah and al-Ittihad Hospitals for treatment. The clashes are the most violent in two months. The clashes lasted until the afternoon. Children and adults were involved.

The city of Nabulus became a military barracks after the occupation troops mounted barricades on the city's main roads. In the meantime, ambulances rushed the wounded to hospitals. The emergency department in Rafidiyah Hospital said that the number of wounded reached 21, four of whom are in serious condition. [passage omitted]

Because of his concern about the condition of the wounded, President Yasir 'Arafat delegated Dr. Ibrahim al-Jallad, official in charge of the Wounded Palestinians Committee, to check the situation of the wounded.

It is noteworthy that an Israeli soldier sustained wounds to his head after youths pelted him with stones. His face was bleeding as other soldiers carried him to the occupation police center for treatment. [end recording]

Rally Marked Black Panthers' Death

TA3011143095 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1400 GMT 30 Nov 95

[FBIS Translated Text] According to Palestinian sources, at least 15 persons were wounded in clashes with the security forces in Nabulus. According to reports, dozens rallied in downtown Nabulus to mark the sixth anniversary of the killing of four Black Panther members by IDF [Israel Defense Forces] troops.

Settlers Council Issues Statement

TA3011194995 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1900 GMT 30 Nov 95

[FBIS Translated Text] An IDF [Israel Defense Forces] officer was slightly injured by stones during riots in Nabulus this afternoon. He received medical treatment and was sent back to his unit.

Our correspondent Yoni Ben-Menahem reports that 18 Palestinians were injured in the course of today's clashes with the security forces. Sources in Nabulus said that two of the wounded are in serious condition.

The Council of Jewish Settlements in Judaea, Samaria, and Gaza has issued a statement saying that the Shaqed shooting and the abduction of two Border Police soldiers in Janin were a forewarning for the prime minister and defense minister that these are but the first changes that can be expected in Judaea and Samaria after the Palestinian Police assume control of the area.

'Arafat Advser Blames IDF

JN3011195995 Jericho Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1900 GMT 30 Nov 95

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Marwan Kanafani, adviser to President Yasir 'Arafat, expressed deep regret over what happened in the city of Nabulus today. He held the occupation authorities fully responsible for these incidents.

Kanafani added: Each time the Israeli occupation troops are about to withdraw from our cities and villages, their pulling of the trigger increases, exactly as happened in Nabulus today. Nabulus is awaiting the dawn of freedom in the next few days, he said. [passage omitted]

Two Wounded by Shots at Car in Janin District

TA3011174895 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1600 GMT 30 Nov 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Several shots were fired a short while ago at an Israeli vehicle escorting a bus in the vicinity of the Janin District settlement of Shaqed. Our correspondent Gil Litman reports that two people riding in the escort car were wounded in the legs and are now receiving medical treatment. There is no information about their condition.

Peres Taking 'Very Serious View' of Shaqed Attack

TA0112053495 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0500 GMT 1 Dec 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Prime Minister Shim'on Peres has stated that he takes a very serious view of the terrorist attack near the settlement of Shaqed in Samaria and that Israel will take every necessary measures to ensure the well-being and security of the settlers in Judaea and Samaria.

A statement issued by Peres' bureau notes that Israel demands that the Palestinian Authority take action against terrorists in the areas under its control.

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Three soldiers were wounded — one seriously and two lightly — in two incidents in Samaria last night. [Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English at 0500 GMT on 1 December notes that the third soldier "was lightly injured last night when a petrol bomb was thrown at an army patrol in Tulkarm. The soldier was treated for his injuries. The army imposed a curfew on the area."]

Russia's Grachev Arrives on 'First' Official Visit

TA3011195095 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1900 GMT 30 Nov 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Russian Defense Minister Pavel Grachev has arrived on the first-ever official visit of a Russian defense minister to Israel. He was received at the airport by Defense Ministry Director General David 'Ivri.

Our correspondent Karmela Menashe reports that the Russian visitor will meet with Shim'on Peres, prime minister and defense minister, tomorrow. According to the Israeli Embassy in Moscow, Grachev will also visit the Israeli defense industries and discuss possible cooperation in this field.

Signs Security Accord

TA0112105095 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1000 GMT 1 Dec 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Israel and Russia have signed a security cooperation agreement. The agreement was signed this morning by Prime Minister Shim'on Peres and Russian Defense Minister Pavel Grachev. Our correspondent Dan Eshel reports that the agreement will initially include visits to both countries by army officers and Israel's upgrading weapons owned by Russia and countries equipped with Russian-made weapons.

Asked by our correspondent Dan Eshel if there is a danger of Israeli know-how reaching hostile countries through Russia, Peres said that at this stage this is a framework agreement which will be further formulated with the necessary caution.

Seeks 'Influence' in U.S. Over Sudan Deal

TA0112095495 Tel Aviv DAVAR RISHON in Hebrew 1 Dec 95 p 1

[Report by Arye Dayan]

[FBIS Translated Text] Russia wants Israel to exert its influence in Washington and Cairo to prevent the United States and Egypt from foiling a deal it has recently signed with Sudan. The request was raised by Russian Deputy Foreign Minister Viktor Posuvalyuk in a meeting with Deputy Foreign Minister Eli Dayan two days ago.

The $1 billion deal at stake involves the laying of a 1,300 km-long oil pipeline in Sudan. The deal was signed between the Russian Government and the fundamentalist Muslim regime in Sudan headed by 'Umar al-Bashir. Al-Bashir has close links with Iran, and the United States considers him a supporter of international terrorism. Egypt, Sudan's neighbor, accuses the Khartoum regime of abetting fundamentalist elements who want to topple President Mubarak's regime.

Posuvalyuk and Dayan devoted most of their meeting to the Israeli-Syrian negotiations. Dayan requested that his Russian interlocutor explain to his hosts in Damascus, where he was scheduled to visit yesterday, that Israel is demanding that Syria rein in Hizballah.

Referring to Russia's desire to mediate between Israel and Syria, Dayan said that since the Madrid conference days Israel has regarded Russia as one of the two sponsors of the peace process and is interested in Russian contributions to the process. "I told Deputy Foreign Minister Posuvalyuk that Russia can acquire a prestigious role in the Middle East if it uses its influence not only with Syria, but also with Iran in order to curb Hizballah," Dayan told DAVAR RISHON.

Peres To Meet King Husayn, Mubarak 'Next Week'

TA3011143195 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1400 GMT 30 Nov 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Next week the prime minister expects to meet with King Husayn in Jordan and with President Mubarak in Egypt. This was reported by our political correspondent Shlomo Raz. The prime minister wishes to meet with these leaders prior to his meeting with President Clinton in the United States. A date for a meeting with Palestinian Authority Chairman Yasir 'Arafat has not been set as yet, but 'Arafat's spokesman said that a meeting is expected to take place very soon.

Redeployment Preparations Postponed

TA3011153395 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1500 GMT 30 Nov 95

[Report by Golan Yokhpaz, "correspondent in the territories"]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] The preparations for redeployment in Judaea and Samaria have been postponed for at least 24 hours in the wake of the incident last night in which border policemen were kidnapped. The IDF [Israel Defense Forces] has announced a temporary ban on Palestinian policemen's passage from the Jericho jurisdiction area into West Bank cities, thereby aborting the planned joint deployment on the eve of the withdrawal from the cities. [passage omitted]

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Officials 'Worried' About Hamas-PA Agreement

TA3011195495 Jerusalem Israel Television Channel 1 Network in Hebrew 1800 GMT 30 Nov 95

[Report by Arab affairs correspondent Ehud Ya'ari]

[FBIS Translated Text] Today's events reflected the problematic nature of the dual rule emerging in the West Bank, where two powers rule simultaneously, each forced to maintain a very high level of coordination with the other and to show a lot of goodwill, or else their efforts will be harmed by their own troops and by random events.

Last night's incident [in which border policemen were abducted by Black Panther members] was settled successfully due to the fact that the culprits were Fatah men, who obey 'Arafat, after all. That was a demonstration of a clash and a solution. The shooting near the Shaqed Junction this evening was apparently done by another faction. This is an illustration of the uncertainty concerning the future conduct of Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement].

Within this context, high-ranking Israeli elements are concerned about the draft agreement negotiated by 'Arafat and Hamas. By the way, there are certain indications that the signing of the agreement has been held up by 'Arafat himself, in a bid to disrupt Hamas' preparations for the elections in the territories on 20 January.

The Israelis are worried about three clauses in the draft. One of them permits Hamas to react to Israeli acts of aggression, but does not define such acts. The second worrisome clause states that Hamas will pledge to stop all attacks inside and from the Palestinian Authority [PA] area of jurisdiction, but not in Israel or in areas not controlled by 'Arafat. The third problematic clause says that 'Izz-al-Din al-Qassam, Hamas' terror squads, will not be disarmed. If the agreement is signed, after all, Israel can expect to be asked to release Hamas prisoners and to enable 'Arafat to promise — in his own name — that the IDF [Israel Defense Forces] will not launch operations against Hamas.

Autonomy's International Phone Lines Disconnected

TA3011175495 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1600 GMT 30 Nov 95

[FBIS Translated Text] The Bezek company today disconnected the international telephone lines from the autonomy due to a 22-million-shekel debt. Our correspondent Yaron Kaner notes that the Palestinian Authority [PA] has rejected a proposal made by Bezeq, the Finance Ministry, and the Communications Ministry to deduct the debt from funds the PA is to receive under the Oslo accords.

Poll on Golan Withdrawal, Religious Parties

TA0112085795 Tel Aviv YEDI'OT AHARONOT in Hebrew 1 Dec 95 p 3

[Public opinion poll conducted by the Dahaf Institute directed by Dr. Mina Tzemah]

[FBIS Translated Text] Question: Should Israel declare its willingness to make a full withdrawal from the Golan Heights in exchange for a full peace and adequate security arrangements to bring about a breakthrough in the process with Syria?

Answer: It should — 45 percent; it should not — 50 percent; did not reply — 5 percent.

Question: Should Labor comply with the political demands raised by the National Religious Party [NRP] to secure the NRP's support of the government until the elections?

Answer: It should — 31 percent; it should not — 47 percent; did not reply — 22 percent.

Question: Should Labor make concessions in the religious sphere to the ultra-Orthodox parties to obtain their support of the government until the elections?

Answer: It should — 31 percent; it should not — 61 percent; did not reply — 8 percent.

The poll was conducted on 28 and 29 November among 605 respondents who constitute a representative sample of Israel's adult population. The maximum margin of error is 4 percent.

Assassination Inquiry Commissions Hear Testimony

TA3011174395 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 1500 GMT 30 Nov 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The Tel Aviv Magistrate's Court has extended the remand in detention of Yig'al and Hagay 'Amir and Dror 'Adani. Police hope to press charges against the three men on Sunday [3 December].

The Shamgar Commission investigating the assassination today heard testimony from Yitzhaq Rabin's driver and from the director of Ichilov Hospital. Mark Weiss reports:

[Weiss] In court today, before the judge came in, Yig'al 'Amir told reporters that he was not influenced by rabbis. I am an individualist, he said; I am not influenced by anyone. I did what I did to Rabin after a lot of thought and attempts to awaken the public. I am not a fanatic. You have faith in peace, I have faith in God. I will

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not be broken. He also claimed that Margalit Har-Shefi from Bet El was being brought unjustifiably into the case, and was not involved.

Yig'al's elder brother Hagay will be charged with conspiracy, failing to prevent a felony, and organizing an illegal group. Hagay's lawyer, Avi Richtman, told reporters that Hagay did not know anything about the murder and did not believe his brother would do it. The police claim Hagay, before he was arrested, asked another suspect to get rid of explosives for him, and also asked a neighbor to hide weapons. Police suspect Dror 'Adani of conspiracy to commit a crime, providing the means to commit a crime, failing to prevent a crime, and being part of an illegal organization.

The police hope to indict the 'Amir brothers and Dror 'Adani together on Sunday, or a few days afterwards. The police say they still need to question the three men about results from a police laboratory. Because of this, the Tel Aviv Magistrate's Court this morning extended the remand in detention of all three men: the 'Amir brothers by four days each and 'Adani for seven days. If the overall indictment is not ready by Sunday, the remand of the 'Amir brothers will have to be extended again.

The Shamgar commission of inquiry into the assassination heard today from the director of the Ichilov Hospital, Gabi Barabash, that the prime minister died on the operating table nine minutes after arriving at the hospital. Ichilov had received no prior warning that the prime minister was on his way. Rabin was struck by two bullets that punctured both his lungs. He suffered brain damage because his heart was pumping air instead of blood to the brain. Barabash said that the prime minister arrived in very grave condition and probably would have died even if he had arrived sooner.

The prime minister's driver, Menahem Damti, repeating comments he had already made on television, explained to the commission that, because of police roadblocks and large crowds, he took a detour that made the route to Ichilov Hospital three times longer than the direct route.

The Police Serious Crimes Unit today questioned Moshe Feiglin, the head of the Zo Artzenu, This Is Our Land, right-wing group. Feiglin was questioned about comparisons he made in public between Yitzhaq Rabin and Jewish leaders in the ghetto who cooperated with the Nazis, and comments he made about the sinking of the Etzel Altalena ship by the Palmah. Feiglin refused to answer police questions and told reporters it was a political investigation. He accused the police and the state apparatus of being a tool of the left.

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U.S., Opposition Said Holding 'Secret' Talks

JN3011123195 Amman AKHBAR AL-USBU' in Arabic 30 Nov 95 p 1

[FBIS Translated Text] AKHBAR AL-USBU' has learned that the U.S. Administration has begun a secret dialogue with the Jordanian opposition in European capitals and in Amman. Representatives of the Jordanian Islamic opposition and the Palestinian opposition have taken part in this dialogue. Meanwhile, the local Jordanian opposition was excluded from this dialogue.

U.S. contacts focused on the official Jordanian opposition represented by a number of deputies and Jordanian nationalists who are known for their opposition to the present Jordanian march. A ranking Jordanian official, who opposes the peace process, several members of Parliament, representatives of the opposition parties, and figures known for their opposition to peace and to the government participated in these contacts.

U.S. contacts with the Jordanian opposition took place following the heated speeches that were delivered, and following statements by some deputies which went far beyond the red lines and which proved that our reading of Jordanian history is incorrect. These contacts were also prompted by statements made by some deputies against the peace treaty, as well as by the anti-peace stands of the Jordanian Islamic Movement and the more than 13 nationalist, leftist, and even centrist parties.

U.S. contacts with the Jordanian opposition also took place following the success of the trade unions' policy rejecting normalization with Israel, as well as following the government's failure to confront the unions democratically when the Islamists and leftists, who oppose the government, scored landslide victory in the elections for the Jordan Engineers Association's branches. Political sources in Amman said the results of the engineers' elections have embarrassed the government in front of the United States, since the government asserts that the majority of the Jordanians support its peaceful policy.

Western observers in the Jordanian capital say that U.S. authorities are sensitive to the Jordanian Government's failure to deal with the opposition out of fear that the Jordanian opposition might be able to mobilize the Jordanians against the peace treaty, as well as create unrest in the region, particularly in light of coordination between the Jordanian opposition on one hand, and the Syrian and Iranian Governments on the other. This coordination has reached its peak in the past few days.

The question is: What will be the fate of Jordan if the Government and the opposition reach a deadlock? Will this lead us to a bloody dispute akin to that of some countries in the region and the world?

Some commentators say Jordan is ripe for such domestic disputes because of the eruption of many problems and the government's failure to solve them. The exacerbating problems of unemployment, starvation, and extreme poverty, which cannot be denied in Jordan; administrative, financial, and ethical corruption and inactivity; and the bloated bureaucratic system and its complications, are all considered to be factors that would stir up the people and strengthen the opposition.

Regarding tension in relations between Jordan and its neighborly countries, one of the commentators said that these countries have the power and capability to create an atmosphere of violence in Jordan, exploiting the living conditions of citizens and the unfriendly relations between the government and opposition.

Other commentators said that Jordan, which is open to all, attracted many opposition elements from neighborly and non-neighborly countries. The commentators added that acts of violence, which are rejected in Jordan, take place in one of the stages in which the reaction of the opposition will develop due to its nonparticipation in decisionmaking and due to the failure to understand its necessary needs.

Some people believe that the phenomenon of extremism shows the depth of the gap between the ruling regimes in the Arab and Islamic world on one hand, and their people on the other. They also believe that governments refuse to reach understanding with the opposition in many countries because the platforms of the opposition, in general, and the Islamic opposition, in particular, conflict with the interests of these governments. This, consequently, produces a serious strategic difference if there is no daring and clear dialogue that will clear things and arrange the common priorities in the political, economic, and social arenas.

Finally, we should say that the policy of indifference and improvisation is so serious that it will prevent any possible reform in the future. Everybody is called on today, before tomorrow, to shoulder his responsibility on an equal footing because Jordan is our only homeland.

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Hizballah Aide on Rocket Raids, U.S. Stance

MM3011123595 London AL-HAYAH in Arabic 30 Nov 95 p 2

[Report by Walid Shuqayr: "Hizballah Official: Rockets Are a Message to Israel So That It Will Return to 'July Understanding'"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Beirut — Al-Hajj Husayn al-Khalil, political assistant to the Hizballah secretary general, has said that the Katyusha rockets fired on Israeli settlements "are a clear message to the Israelis so that they will return to the July 1993 understanding, since they have forgotten that there are rules in this understanding. They have persisted in shelling peaceful villages and bulldozing homes in a number of these villages."

Al-Khalil told AL-HAYAH yesterday that the Syrians "will ask the Americans during the contacts between the two sides to tell the Israelis to comply with the July understanding and halt the attacks on civilians."

He ridiculed President Bill Clinton's decision to assign his envoy to Israel, Martin Indyk, to convey a verbal message to the mayor of Qiryat Shemona in solidarity with the inhabitants of the settlements. He said that "the U.S. President did not bother to contact the Lebanese president or the mayors of the Lebanese villages that have been attacked."

Asked whether he considered the shelling of settlements with Katyusha rockets a violation of the understanding reached in July 1993 through the United States and which stipulates that civilians should not be attacked, he said: "It seems that after Rabin's death and the domestic problems the Zionist entity is experiencing, they have forgotten that there are rules in force and that there is something called the July understanding. So they continued their transgression, shelling villages, as was the case in Bra'shit and Zawtar, and bulldozing homes, as happened in Bayt Yahnun and Kafr Tibnit. The resistance, which took responsibility for liberation, also took responsibility for defending peaceful people. The Katyusha rockets are a clear message to the Israelis, namely: Do not forget that there are rules and the July understanding. You are required to return to it."

Asked whether the retaliation was the result of the explosion against one of the party's cadres in Jibshit (Sa'id Harb), he said: "Not at all."

On the warnings to the party and the U.S. and Israeli request to Syria to restrain it, he said: "From time to time the Israelis ask the Syrians, either directly through Israeli statements or through American mediation, to check Hizballah and halt resistance operations. This Israeli request tends to come when the Israelis are annoyed because of the resistance's strikes against their occupation forces. When the enemy has exhausted all means of retaliation, he resorts to that method. We wonder why in such cases the Israelis and the Americans have confidence in the Syrians and the strength of their views and performance, while they cast doubt on the Syrians' ability in other cases. Doubt is cast on the Syrian stands, specifically with regard to the negotiations and the discussions taking place between the Syrians and the Israelis in the peace process. In everything, the Israelis are seeking through the Syrians to achieve their objectives, conceal their attacks, and legitimize their occupation of Lebanese territory, that is all."

He added: "The Syrians have proved on numerous occasions that they cannot be dragged into such matters. They have repeatedly said that they are not a policeman to defend Israel and its occupation Army in southern Lebanon and western al-Biqa'. They expressed their support for the Lebanese people's right to resist the occupation, defend the land and people, and liberate their country from the Zionist occupation."

He cited "what Syrian Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' kindly said the day before yesterday, because it reflects the truth. When he was asked about the Katyusha rockets he replied, reiterating Syria's established position on the resistance and its right to resist the occupation and aggression: Before you ask me about the Katyushas, ask me about the aircraft raiding the south."

Asked what could happen after Secretary Warren Christopher's contacts with al-Shar', he said: "I believe that the answer is clear. The Syrians will ask the Americans to tell the Israelis to comply with the July understanding and halt their attacks on civilians."

He added: "We believe that the attacks on our people and the occupation of our land should be confronted and deterred, regardless of the tendencies or quarters responsible or the Zionist policy running matters, whether it is the (Israeli) military establishment acting independently or on direct orders from the political leadership, even though we believe that matters are run in complete coordination between the political authority and the military, especially as the enemy's prime minister, Shim'on Peres, is the defense minister as well."

On Washington's assertion that the shelling is aimed against the peace process and President Bill Clinton's contacts as regards what has happened, al-Khalil said: "The U.S. Administration has accustomed us to positions supportive of repeated Israeli attacks. It has also accustomed us to its provision of all forms of aid to the enemy and its support for him in international forums to consolidate his occupation and bolster his aggression.

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"That is not new. The new and striking thing is the fact that President Clinton has blatantly exposed himself, downgrading the United States, which he considers the sole superpower, to the level of a village municipality for the sake of the Jews and their defense. He violated traditions by sending a verbal message to the mayor of Qiryat Shemona through his envoy in Tel Aviv, Martin Indyk, expressing his concern about the settlement and the settlers. While Clinton and his administration have said nothing about the Zionist enemy's daily attacks on villages and peaceful people in Lebanon or the daily massacres committed by the enemy — of which the shelling and destruction of Bra'shit, Zawtar, and Kafr Tibnit and the bulldozing of homes in cold blood in Bayt Yahun will not be the last. After all this, Clinton did not even bother to contact any official in Lebanon — the president or any minor official at the Foreign Ministry, let alone the mayors of the afflicted villages — to express regret or condemnation."

Al-Khalil said: "That proves that the United States is a full partner in the war against us and our people and in the attacks launched against Lebanon and the daily massacres committed against the Lebanese people, and not, as it claims, a full partner in the so-called peace process."

Asked about reports that the reduction in operations against the Israelis in southern Lebanon after Rabin's murder was designed to keep eyes focused on Israeli domestic contradictions, and that the escalation the day before yesterday is attributable to the diminishing possibility of a resumption of the negotiations on the Syrian track, he said: "You should remember that resistance operations are not at all linked to any political developments at the domestic level in Lebanon or the external level, or regional developments and the peace process. They are governed by one policy that is above all policies. It is the policy of confronting the Zionist enemy and his attacks, defending the people, and liberating the land. As for what happened in the Zionist entity, namely Rabin's murder, it is obviously a major and very important event. It was given much attention in the media and the region, regardless of what happened and is happening in the continuing confrontation between us and the occupation."

Reportage on Continuing Israeli Attacks

Phosphorous Shells Reportedly Used

NC3011125595 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 1130 GMT 30 Nov 95

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] While the firing of katyusha rockets on Israeli settlements has stopped, Israel did not halt its attacks on the south today. Moreover, it intensified the situation and used internationally banned shells against civilians.

Security sources report that more than 80 phosphorous shells landed in most villages facing the occupied border strip. [passage omitted]

The Israeli occupation forces this morning bombarded the Iqlim al-Tuffah hills, namely al-Jabal al-Rafi', Nab' al-Tasah basin, Mazra'at al-Hamra', al-Litani River basin, the army's deserted barracks in al-Nabatiyah, and the woods between 'Ali al-Tahir and al-Dabshah. The violent enemy shelling stretched to the towns of Kafra, Yatar, Haris, and Haddathah. It lasted from 0700-0900 today.

These attacks coincided with flights by Israeli military aircraft over southern areas for the third consecutive day. A helicopter strafed an Islamic resistance position. [passage omitted]

The situation in the south and military affairs were the subject of discussion at a meeting before noon today between Defense Minister Muhsin Dallul and Army Commander General Emile Lahhud. They also discussed ways to handle Israel's escalation of the situation in the south and Western al-Biqa' in light of the continuing threats.

Planes Fire Missiles

NC3011141895 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 1400 GMT 30 Nov 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Israeli warplanes carried out three air raids on the ridges located between Mashgharah and 'Ayn al-Tinah this afternoon. The first raid was executed by four aircraft at 1350, firing eight 500 and 1,000 pound air-to-surface missiles. The second raid was carried out at 1440, while the third raid was conducted at 1450. Air-to-surface missiles were also fired during the second and third raids.

Israelis Shell Areas

NC3011201995 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 2000 GMT 30 Nov 95

[FBIS Translated Text] The areas of Habbush, al-Wadi al-Akhdar, the southern part of 'Arab Salim, Kafr Rumman, al-Nabatiyah, and al-Nabatiyah al-Fawqa are currently coming under fierce 155-mm artillery bombardment from the Israeli positions in al-Zaffatah and al-Tayyibah.

According to the most recent security report from the south, resistance men tonight attacked the occupation forces' position in al-Dabshah with machine-gun and rocket fire.

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Reconnaissance Drone Crashes

NC0112095295 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 0915 GMT 1 Dec 95

[FBIS Translated Text] An Israeli reconnaissance plane crashed off the al-Qulaylah shore, near Tyre, at 0600 today. Fishermen tried to remove parts of the wreckage but gunfire from Israeli gunboats forced them to flee. Fisherman Ahmad Taha reports that he and two colleagues tried to approach the wreckage but Israeli fire forced them back.

An Israeli gunboat tugged the wreckage of the pilotless MK plane back to the sea south of al-Naqurah. An army officer at his post in al-Qulaylah confirmed the crash.

Drone Wreckage Given to Authorities

NC0112120495 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 1130 GMT 1 Dec 95

[FBIS Translated Text] An Israeli MK pilotless reconnaissance plane crashed off the coast of al-Qulaylah, south of Tyre, this morning. Fishermen operating in the area where fishing is permitted, in light of the Israeli naval blockade, report that the plane crashed approximately 1 km from shore. They rushed to the site to retrieve the wreckage. They managed to do so after being chased by the enemy gunboats. Helicopters were seen hovering over the site of the crash.

The competent security agencies have confirmed to the NATIONAL NEWS AGENCY bureau in Tyre that they received the wreckage of the plane and immediately sent it to the higher command centers.

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Al-Shihabi Asks Israelis To Announce Withdrawal

JN3011205695 Damascus Syrian Arab Television Network in Arabic 1850 GMT 30 Nov 95

[Announcer-read report over video]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Under the patronage of President Hafiz al-Asad, commander in chief of the Army and the Armed Forces, and as part of the celebrations of our people and Armed Forces of the 25th anniversary of the glorious Corrective Movement, a graduation ceremony was held this morning for a new batch of the Navy College cadets.

Lieutenant General Hikmat al-Shihabi, chief of staff of the Army and the Armed Forces, deputized for his excellency the president. The ceremony was attended by a number of ministers; Lieutenant General 'Ali Aslan, assistant chief of staff; comrade member of the party in Latakia; the governor of Latakia; a number of senior officers from the General Headquarters and units; directors of military colleges and institutions; a number of ranking fraternal Lebanese Army officers; a number of Arab and foreign military attaches, the families of the graduates, and a large crowd of invited people. [passage omitted]

Lt. Gen. al-Shihabi gave a speech in which he said: It is my honor to deputize for His Excellency President Hafiz al-Asad, commander in chief of the Army and the Armed Forces, in patronizing this grand ceremony. [passage omitted]

Lt. Gen. al-Shihabi then spoke about the peace process in the region. He said: Syria deals with peace as a strategic option. It is aware of the strength of its position and that it is the owner of a right that is as clear as the sun. Syria can never relinquish its right. Syria wants a just and comprehensive peace that would restore the land — all the land and not half, one quarter, or one third of it. Syria said and continues to say through its leader, His Excellency President Hafiz al-Asad, that without the full return of the land Israel occupied and withdrawal to 4 June 1967 lines there can be no peace.

Based on this, we rejected and still reject any peace that does not return the land and rights in full. We do not accept any token, no matter how small, that will encroach upon our full sovereignty over our land. We reject the so-called early-warning ground stations just as we reject any trace of occupation. We will accept only equal, reciprocal, and parallel [mutaswiyah wa mutaqabilah wa mutawaziyah] security arrangements on both sides of the borders, regardless of the circumstances.

Lt. Gen. al-Shihabi added: Syria has proven its serious desire to establish a just and comprehensive peace, however, Israel is the party that was intransigent, placed obstacles, created difficulties, and led the peace process to a state of dormancy and stagnation. Israel's rulers should know that making too many statements about peace will be of no use if they do not state frankly and announce clearly that they are ready to withdraw from all the occupied Arab lands and comply with the resolutions of international legitimacy.

Lt. Gen. al-Shihabi added: The position of our leader President Hafiz al-Asad provides elements of firmness and steadfastness for the Arab position. This position isolates those who relinquish and demonstrate weakness. It is now a symbol of loftiness and pride and derives its strength from the Arab nation's size, world weight, and long history, which is abundant with glories. This position categorically and unwaveringly rejects bargaining over sovereignty, land, and rights. In the battle of peace, we are not less powerful or steadfast than in the armed battle of survival. We are strong with our leader, people, heroic armed forces, the ample capabilities of our country, self-confidence, and self-reliance. [passage omitted]

Ba'th Official Meets With U.S. Arab Expatriates

JN3011170795 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1215 GMT 30 Nov 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Washington — As part of his meetings and contacts with Arab expatriates in North America, Comrade 'Abdallah al-Ahmar, assistant secretary general of the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party and head of the Pan-Arab Committee on Expatriates, met in Washington yesterday evening with representatives of Arab expatriates from various U.S. states. Syrian Ambassador in Washington Dr. Walid al-Mu'allim attended the meeting.

During the meeting, comrade al-Ahmar discussed Syria's construction march and achievements under the Corrective Movement throughout the past 25 years. He pointed out that these achievements were realized within the framework of the strong national unity and the cohesive internal front under struggler President Hafiz al-Asad.

Al-Ahmar reviewed developments in the region as well as the peace process. He stressed Syria's principled and consistent position as well as its efforts designed to achieve the objectives of the peace process in terms of establishing a just and comprehensive peace based on Israel's withdrawal from the Golan to the 4 June 1967 lines and from southern Lebanon and other occupied Arab territories.

He also stressed the need to promote the Arab expatriates' work and activity in a way that will create an Arab

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expatriate public opinion that can have influence, followed by setting up a strong and united Arab lobby, especially since expatriates have enough scientific, professional, economic, and cultural capabilities and resources to qualify them for attaining this advanced stage of organization and specific, tangible action.

Moreover, al-Ahmar emphasized Syria's continued interest in Arab expatriates, its support for them, and its care for their organizations. He called on the expatriates to close their ranks, organize their activities, and promote this organization to a level that will enable them to enhance their role in their new countries and consolidate their links to their motherland.

Comrade al-Ahmar also discussed the importance of teaching Arabic to the new generations so as to guarantee their continued pan-Arab sentiments and to enhance their links to the homeland of their fathers and grandfathers. He said that teaching Arabic is a very noble and important task the expatriates can undertake now and in the future.

Comrade al-Ahmar listened and responded to the expatriates' inquiries and concerns. The expatriates thanked Syria and its leader for its interest in the Arab expatriates and its care for them.

Israeli Attacks on Lebanon Linked to Peace Pressures

JN3011162395 Damascus SANA in Arabic 0845 GMT 30 Nov 95

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Damascus, 30 Nov (SANA) — The newspaper AL-BA'TH asserts that the continuing Israeli aggression against southern Lebanon is a premeditated action by the ruling Israeli circles.

In an editorial by Chief Editor Turki Saqr today, AL-BA'TH expresses surprise at Israel's hysterical escalation of aggression against southern Lebanon at a time when Shim'on Peres since his assumption of the post of prime minister has been talking about peace and the desire to advance the peace process. The paper adds that Ehud Baraq, the new foreign minister, has not been less outspoken than his boss in harping the same tune.

The paper wonders: What is it that the Israeli rulers seek to achieve by this escalation? Is it to preempt the anticipated tour of the region by Ross and later Christopher in a bid to pressure Syria and Lebanon into softening their position on the peace talks, or an attempt to pull the rug from under the feet of the Israeli extremists so that the Israeli rulers will appear to be using force to rally support for the expansionist and settlement-building policy to which the extremists adhere?

AL-BA'TH adds: Regardless of the motives behind the Peres government's aggressive acts, these acts will not give this government a certificate of good conduct, nor will they ever help create an atmosphere conducive to resuming the peace talks along a track that would achieve their goals.

The paper says: If there is anyone in the new Israeli Government who looks up to the U.S. style of negotiations with Vietnam, where fierce and destructive air raids preceded every phase of negotiations, then he should bear in mind that the aggressive actions did not soften the Vietnamese negotiator, and the Americans had to leave Vietnam quickly. The paper adds that it is useless to employ the policy of threats and muscle-flexing in dealing with Syria, which advocates a just and comprehensive peace.

AL-BA'TH asserts that peace goes in one direction while extremism and aggression go in another, and the two cannot meet. Defeating anti-peace forces cannot be done by outbidding them in extremism and terrorism, but by choosing the peace option as a strategy and by meeting the peace requirements. The paper points out that Rabin's appeasement of extremists and peace opponents did not do him any good.

Commending the Lebanese national resistance operations to liberate southern Lebanon, the paper says they target foreign occupation and terrorism exercised by the occupiers against the people of the occupied lands. There is a great difference between this legitimate right and the terrorism practiced by Israel through its various bodies and armed forces.

AL-BA'TH says that no one can deny the Lebanese their right to defend themselves against occupation. It calls on Israel to withdraw from the occupied Lebanese territories, to implement Resolution 425, and to comply with the principles of international legitimacy. It asserts that Syria has always been against terrorism, but it supports the right of every people to defend their land, sovereignty, and freedom. It believes resolution of the situation in southern Lebanon lies in removing tension through the Israeli forces' withdrawal to the international borders of Lebanon.

Concluding, AL-BA'TH says that Syria adheres to a just and comprehensive peace and seeks to achieve its objectives in accordance with the objective bases of this process. It adds that the fate of the peace negotiations now hinges on Peres' government. [passage omitted]

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Radio: 'Total Peace for Total Israeli Withdrawal'

JN3011151095 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1230 GMT 30 Nov 95

[Station commentary]

[FBIS Translated Text] Dear listeners: Observers believe Syria's stands on the overall issues of the region and the world are in harmony with one principle, namely, its strong desire to ensure the rights of all parties, to bring about balanced and equitable [mutakafi'ah] relations, and to enable the Middle East to enjoy peace, safety, and stability.

Syria's effective participation in the Barcelona conference on Euro—Mediterranean partnership was aimed at formulating Arab-European relations based on deep respect, mutual benefits, and joint cooperation in harmony with historical facts, which link our Arab region to the European continent, and with the need to secure an effective European contribution to the overall issues of the region.

Syria was eager during the Barcelona conference to establish firm concepts and stands that are not only in line with the higher pan-Arab interests, but also based on the principles of right, justice, and international legitimacy, which have resulted from the experience of nations and epitomized by international institutions as resolutions and concepts to guide the steps of all parties.

The Barcelona conference clearly endorsed Syria's view on the right to use legitimate means against the acquisition of territories by force. This means the right to use legitimate resistance against Israel's occupation. It also stressed the need to make the Mediterranean region a zone that is free from weapons of mass destruction.

The Barcelona conference's firm support for achieving a just and comprehensive peace in the Middle East in light of the relevant UN Security Council resolutions and the Madrid formula, including the principle of land for peace, means an international consensus that Syria's endeavors to bring about a just and comprehensive peace are aimed at implementing international resolutions, nothing more nothing less, and bringing about just peace to which the people of the Middle East are looking forward.

These are Syria's stands and constant principles. They were incorporated once again into an official international formula and were approved by the European and Arab countries to activate the European role in the region, to bring about just and equal [musawah] relations, to avert the specter of nuclear danger, and to implement the UN Security Council's resolutions calling for a total Israeli withdrawal to beyond the 4 June 1967 lines in preparation for building the region in accordance with the principles of justice, balance, and equitability.

Syria's stand on solving the Middle East problem is clear, is known to everybody, and enjoys the respect of all capitals because it is not based on personal and temporary motives, but on motives that are approved by the international community. The ball is now in the Israeli court because Syria's stand is clear and has been endorsed by various capitals and because Syria is ready to accept total peace for total Israeli withdrawal from the Syrian Golan to beyond the 4 June 1967 lines and from southern Lebanon in accordance with Resolution No. 425. Such a peace will enable the region to enjoy security and stability and will guarantee everybody's rights and dignity.

Press Comments on 'Contradictory' Israeli Statements

JN0112094295 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 0550 GMT 1 Dec 95

[Press review]

[FBIS Translated Text] In its commentary today, AL-BA'TH says peace for Syria is a strategic option. Syria has made tremendous efforts to make the peace process succeed. Syria responded to all efforts to allow the peace process to achieve its objectives.

The newspaper adds that Syria's position has provided many opportunities to achieve real peace in the region, however, all these opportunities clashed with Israel's position that rejects the conditions and requirements for a just and comprehensive peace.

The newspaper notes that Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' reasserted Syria's desire for peace at the Barcelona conference a few days ago. Al-Shar' unambiguously said: We are ready for full peace in return for full withdrawal. Does this stand not mean that Syria is willing to comply with all the conditions and requirements for a just and comprehensive peace? By saying this, Syria wants to say that full withdrawal from our occupied territory to the 4 June 1967 lines and from southern Lebanon is the only way to achieve peace.

Referring to the Israeli position, AL-BA'TH says this position has remained vague and contradictory. Israel continues to refuse to commit itself to the implementation of the resolutions of international legitimacy and the land-for-peace principle. Any observer can see that Syria is the party seeking a just and comprehensive peace in accordance with the resolutions of international legitimacy while Israel is obstructing the achievement

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of this peace, since it contradicts its aggressive and expansionist objectives in our Arab homeland.

In one of its commentaries today, AL-THAWRAH comments on the contradictory statements of Israeli officials. We in Syria are eager to make the peace process succeed, however, we have no doubt at all that the optimistic statements of Israeli Prime Minister Shim'on Peres and the ensuing statements by Foreign Minister Baraq at the Barcelona summit are only a maneuver in the context of a preplanned Israeli action. This is because what they said completely contradicts Israeli practices on the ground. Consider here the aggressive escalation in southern Lebanon and the adherence to occupation and refusal to comply with the requirements for a true peace. Israel refuses to withdraw from the Golan and southern Lebanon in accordance with UN resolutions and the U.S. land-for peace initiative.

AL-THAWRAH refers to the Barcelona conference and the speech by Baraq about peace, noting that Baraq did not mention anything at all about the foundations of this peace. Nor did he refer to Israel's withdrawal from the Golan and southern Lebanon, which is the basis of the peace process. Thus, Baraq reminded everybody of the attitude of Yitzhaq Shamir at the Madrid conference more than four years ago.

The newspaper adds: The Syrian response to Israel at the Madrid conference was positive, convincing, and embarrassing for Israel, since it exposed its anti-peace stance. Just as Syria responded positively to peace efforts then, its response at the Barcelona conference was principled and constant. Syria asserted its willingness to achieve full peace in return for full Israeli withdrawal. Syria challenged Israel before the representatives of Europe and the Mediterranean to declare its commitment to the foundations of peace and its readiness to implement them. Baraq did not do this, which shows again that Israel is not serious about peace.

AL-THAWRAH says that the Barcelona conference, which emphasized a just and comprehensive peace on the basis of the implementation of the resolutions of international legitimacy on which the Madrid conference was based, is the second international trial of Israel. Israel again appeared before the world as the party that is procrastinating and creating obstacles to the peace process.

The newspaper concludes: The road to peace is clear and well known. It is the resolutions of international legitimacy. Syria has repeatedly and unambiguously stated that it is fully committed. All that Israel has to do if it truly wants peace is to announce clearly its commitment to these resolutions. Without this, Israel alone remains responsible for obstructing the Middle East peace process.

AL-THAWRAH publishes another commentary on the same issue. The newspaper says: Baraq's speech was another kind of play with words, a new maneuver, and exposed attempt to mobilize European and world public opinion against Syria and give the impression that Syria rejects peace. However, Syrian Arab diplomacy, represented in Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar', managed to contain and besiege this attempt and succeeded in keeping the ball in the Israeli court. The clear response of Syrian diplomacy dotted the i's by asking Israel to prove its seriousness and assert its commitment in front of the conferees by expressing willingness to translate its words into deeds. Syria said it is willing to commit itself to full peace in return for full withdrawal, along with arrangements that ensure equal security for both sides. This Syrian response embarrassed the leaders of Israel, whose reaction was quick and nervous. Thus, they unmasked their faces and revealed their nature in a show of political bankruptcy, failure to prove credibility, and evasion of the requirements of peace. The leaders of Israel started to level accusations, make threats, and try to belittle the Barcelona conference's emphasis on the right to the resistance of Israeli occupation by all means. The Barcelona conference also stressed support for a just and comprehensive peace in accordance with Security Council resolutions and the land-for-peace principle.

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Afghanistan

IRNA on Mojaddedi's Withdrawal From Opposition

LD2911152795 Tehran IRNA in English 1344 GMT 29 Nov 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Islamabad, Nov. 29, IRNA — Former Afghan President Prof. Mojaddedi's dramatic pull out from the 4-party opposition alliance of Supreme Coordination Council (SCC) has reportedly caused disappointment among the other allied parties.

It is said that Hekmatyar of Hezb-e Eslami [Islamic Party] of Afghanistan was desperately trying to save the alliance from further split. The coordination alliance was composed of Hekmatyar's Hezb-e Eslami, General Dostam's Jombesh-e Meli [National Front], Khalili's Hezb-e Wahdat [Islamic Unity Party] and Mojaddedi's Jabha-ye Nejat-e Meli [National Liberation Front].

Mojaddedi decided on Monday [27 November] to pull out from the alliance charging Hekmatyar with having repeated secret meetings with the Kabul regime officials without prior consent of the allied parties. An emergency meeting of the main component of alliance was reportedly held in Peshawar Tuesday to review the situation after Mojaddedi's withdrawal from the alliance. The meeting, attended by representatives from Hekmatyar's Hezb-e Eslami, Dostam's Jombesh-e Meli and Khalili's Hezb-e Wahdat, unanimously decided to take step for Mojaddedi's return to the coalition.

Another late night report say that a meeting between the coordination council representatives and the Taleban was also held on Tuesday in Islamabad. The meeting was reportedly attended by Mollah 'Abbas, Mollah Talil, Haji Bashir (Taleban) and Qotboddin Hilal (Hezb-e Eslami).

Taleban and coordination council had recently held many meetings and discussed the ways to overthrow the Rabbani government. Reports on waging joint Taleban-SCC operations against Kabul and its denial by Taleban had continuously been pouring. Taleban claim they have the power to overthrow the Kabul regime by themselves while the other opposition groups suggest a joint attack.

Political analysts believe that Mojaddedi's desertion from the SCC would simply benefit Rabbani and his allies. The Afghan Government, they believe, would definitely endeavour to cash in on this opportunity. They say Kabul would spare no efforts to cause further dents in the coalition. Efforts to win over the sympathies of Mojaddedi also may be made.

Pakistan Government Criticized Over Taleban Aid

LD2311204695 Kabul Radio Afghanistan Network in Pashto 1530 GMT 23 Nov 95

[FBIS Translated Text] The National Awami Party of Pakistan has asked Benazir Bhutto and Nasirullah Babar to refrain from interfering in the internal affairs of Afghanistan.

Abdorrahim Mandokhel, one of the National Awami Party's leaders, has seriously criticized Benazir Bhutto and Nasirullah Babar in Pakistan's Parliament, accusing them of supporting the Taleban group against the lawful government of Afghanistan. In expressing support for the statement of Mr. Mandokhel, Afrasiab Khattak, a prominent Pashtun leader in Pakistan, said recently in an interview: The government of Pakistan should not interfere in the internal affairs of Afghanistan and should let the Afghans determine their own future in accordance with their own will. Saying that the emergence of the Taleban group was the result of work and efforts by the government of Pakistan, in particular Nasirullah Babar, he added: When Nasirullah Babar, accompanied by a number of western ambassadors, paid a visit to Qandahar and Herat via Quetta, a new phenomena, called Taleban, emerged in Qandahar.

Taleban Fires Rockets Into Kabul; 16 Killed

LD3011170195 Kabul Radio Afghanistan Network in Pashto 1530 GMT 30 Nov 95

[FBIS Translated Text] As a result of the firing of seven rockets by Benazir Bhutto's Taleban, a number of Kabul citizens were again killed or injured today.

BAKHTAR reported that these rockets which were fired by the ISI's [Inter-Services Intelligence of Pakistan] Taleban, landed on the crowded areas of Kabul, killing 16 and wounding 30 citizens of Kabul.

In addition to the loss of life, the rockets fired today caused also heavy material damage.

The report adds that the firing of rockets is taking place at a time when the mercenary Taleban group has sustained heavy defeats in the south-east of Kabul and a large number of them were either killed or captured alive by the Islamic army.

Bombs Kabul Airport

LD0112102595 Tehran IRNA in English 0855 GMT 1 Dec 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Kabul, Dec. 1, IRNA — Jet fighters of the Taleban group bombed Kabul International Airport Friday [1 December] morning.

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Confirming the report, sources at Afghanistan Defence Ministry said that two points at the airport were also hit by Taleban's air-to-surface missiles but caused no damage or casualty.

However, the Afghan Government report on the attack causing no damage or casualty has not been confirmed by independent news sources.

Kabul International Airport has been out of activity since three weeks ago and all flights are taking place through an air base 60 km north of Kabul.

Taleban planes tried to violate Kabul airspace twice on Thursday but each time were repelled by the jet fighters of the Air Force of the Afghan Defence Ministry.

Rabbani Forces Push Taleban Back 25 Km

LD3011152895 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran in Pashto 1230 GMT 30 Nov 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Forces loyal to Borhanoddin Rabbani, president of Afghanistan, are still continuing their advances against the Taleban group southeast of Kabul.

According to a report by the Central News Unit, the Defense Ministry of Afghanistan, in confirming the recent government forces' advances against the Taleban group, said last night: Forces loyal to Rabbani's goverment have pushed back the Taleban forces 25 km during the past two days. In bringing under their control a number of regions east of Kabul, the government forces are now stationed in the region of Mes-e Aynak [Aynak Copper Mine; in Lowgar Province].

According to the government sources, 100 of Taleban's men were killed and dozens of others were wounded during this operation. Over 50 tanks, armored vehicles, and other motor-vehicles of the Taleban group were seized by the government forces, in addition to the destruction of dozens of tanks and heavy weapons of the Taleban group.

Likely To Attack Chahar Asiab

LD3011155895 Tehran IRNA in English 1533 GMT 30 Nov 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Kabul, Nov. 30 IRNA — The government forces of Afghanistan in continuation of their advances recaptured Khak Jabbar region, 25 kms southeast of Kabul, from the oppostion Taleban Wednesday [29 November] night. Afghan Defence Ministry's spokesman 'Amrollah said on Thursday that capturing the Khak Jabbar region means that southeastern region of Kabul has been completely cleared of the Taleban forces, and that the government forces have now shifted the battle to northeastern part of Lowgar Province.

He added that the presence of government forces in strategic points as well as drop in the weather temperature contributed to Taleban's recent defeats. He also spoke of a probable attack by government forces against Taleban positions in "Chahar Asiab" and "Sang Neveshteh" in a bid to bring Kabul out of reach of long-range fire of Taleban.

President Rabbani's forces succeeded in recapturing all regions in southeastern Kabul.

India

U.S. 'Double Speak' on Kashmir, Arms Criticized

BK0112112795 Delhi NAVBHARAT TIMES in Hindi 29 Nov 95 p 6

[Editorial: "The Two Faces of the United States"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Two news items exposing the double speak of the U.S. hooliganism have hit the headlines quite recently.

The first concerns our sovereignty and reveals how the United States remains on the lookout to blackmail us even on minor issues. It is reported that through its diplomatic channels, the United States has put pressure on Prime Minister Narasimha Rao to change the fifth schedule of the Constitution of the State of Kashmir. According to this schedule, all candidates running in the assembly elections in the state must express their allegiance to the Indian Constitution as a precondition of eligibility. The U.S. argument for eliminating this condition is that those candidates who have no faith in the Indian Constitution or do not accept Kashmir's formal merger with India will be able to participate in the state elections. This schedule was incorporated in the Kashmir State Constitution in 1965 when G.M. Sadique was dominant in the State. It was only at this time that the titles sadar-e-riyasat [president] and wazir-e-azam [prime minister] were changed to governor and chief minister, respectively. These efforts to alter this 1965 clause in the state constitution are tantamount to negating India's very sovereignty in the state. Although our prime minister has wisely refused this mischievous U.S. proposal, merely refusing is not an apt answer to this sinister move. It was not just a casual proposal but a well thought out nefarious scheme to prevent India from becoming a formidable power and keep Indians fighting each other.

Another example of this dubious U.S. policy has come before us in a comparatively larger scope. In opposing the proposal by the Nonaligned Movement (NAM)

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countries to call a special session of the United Nations to bring about global disarmament, the United States has not only betrayed its hegemonic intentions but also isolated itself from the rest of the world community. This proposal was forwarded in the United Nations by Colombia on behalf of the NAM nations with the argument that there is no reason to continue the arms race in the post-Cold War period, and thus meaningful dialogue should be held to eliminate this mad race. This proposal was backed by all the NAM nations. Not only this, 156 countries — from Europe to the many newly independent Asian republics — also supported the proposal. Despite this near unanimity, the United States opposed it almost single-handedly, with the support of Israel alone. This is enough to highlight the bear gnawing at the U.S. psyche at the prospect of destroying its prized possessions, its weapons.

'Peaceful' Strike Held To Support Sri Lankan Tamils

BK3011133295 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1230 GMT 30 Nov 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] In Tamil Nadu, the dawn-to-dusk bundh [strike] called to highlight the alleged killings of innocent Sri Lankan Tamils in Jaffna passed off peacefully today. According to police sources, no untoward incident was reported so far from anywhere. A Southern Railway press release issued this evening says that regular train traffic, including suburban services, is to be resumed about this time. Transport and air services, which did not operate during the bundh, will also be resumed.

The call for the bundh was given by major opposition parties led by the DMK [Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam], MDMK [Marumalarchi Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam], PMK [Pattali Makkal Katchi], and others. While the ruling AIADMK [All India Anna Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam] supported the bundh, the Congress-I did not oppose it.

The state government declared a public holiday today under the Negotiable Instruments Act. Schools, colleges, government offices, banks, shops, and business establishments remained closed. Essential services were, however, maintained.

Company Wins Solar Energy Project in Syria

BK2411155695 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1530 GMT 24 Nov 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] India has joined the exclusive group of nations in exporting technology to tap solar energy. The breakthrough was achieved by the public sector Central Electronics Limited, a world leader in the field, when it won a contract to set up a factory to manufacture solar photo voltage panels and systems in Syria. The contract was won against stiff competition from a major European company.

PRC Company Signs Accords for Joint Ventures

BK0112045895 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0245 GMT 1 Dec 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The Beijing Capital and Technology Group Company Limited representing 50 leading Chinese companies signed 10 memorandums of understanding with Indian companies in Calcutta yesterday for setting up joint ventures. The various sectors covered are: electronics, computer software, sericulture, food processing, power, and construction.

Editorial Welcomes Return of Enron Project

BK2511115295 Delhi BUSINESS STANDARD in English 24 Nov 95 p 11

[Editorial: Substance and Shadow]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Enron may suddenly become a metaphor for everything that is right with the Indian system — though few would have forecast that four months ago. A fresh deal is on the cards, and the indications are that, from the Indian point of view, the terms will prove to be better than any of the other private/foreign power projects that have been negotiated. The capital cost has come down, and the price of power to be supplied has come down as well. There will be no messy legal dispute, no pay-outs because of a cancelled contract, and no embarrassing headlines in the international press. Indeed, this may become the benchmark for the other power projects being negotiated. There will be greater openness (and Indian involvement) in the selection of equipment suppliers, and Dabhol Power will itself become a partially Indian- owned company, with Indians on its board of directors. At the end of the day, it will he possible to argue that even competitive politics, nationalist ideology and the hurly-burly of Indian public debate yield an outcome that is entirely positive-because the spin- off benefits will extend to other power projects, and indeed make the privatisation of power investment (and foreign investment in this sector) a nonpolitical issue.

Nevertheless, it is important to be clear about what has not been done. The first phase (690 mw) of the project has not been renegotiated, or changed significantly, except with regard to the change of fuel from oil distillate to naphtha (with a consequent reduction in power cost because the cost of fuel was to be fully passed through). The naphtha option was

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there even earlier and is not a concession extracted after cancellation. There appears to be some increase in the capacity at Phase I, and changes in turbine choice, but even if these exist, they seem to be at the margin. Therefore, the financing package that was signed and sealed with some 70 banks just before the Shiv Sena-BJP government assumed office in Maharashtra, stands without change—and in a sense knocks the bottom out of most of the arguments made against the terms of the first phase contract. But this situation is sought to be blurred by converting the project into one that has merged both phases—although the division into two phases had been the result of a World Bank report that fuel led some of the initial controversy.

The Changes

The bulk of what has been changed now is through the negotiation of what was originally the second phase of the project, which was open to full negotiation anyway since no power purchase agreement had been signed. The reduction in cost because the re-gasification unit has been hived off, is part of the second phase, and this seems to account for the bulk of the reduced capital cost (apart from the cheaper turbines, of which more later). It is also not clear whether either the internal rate of return or the return on equity will be any lower than before for Phase I, though there will be a drop at the end of Phase II.

Some of the main points of criticism against the original project, made through months of debate, have now been accepted as unfounded. The environmental issue has been buried. The business of aquatic life being affected by the discharged water has been dismissed as nonsense. Gas remains as fuel at the second stage, and clearly will not do much harm to the local mango trees, or prove to be as a safety hazard beyond the limits stipulated.

What about the more substantive points of criticism that had been raised? The tariff continues to be denominated in US currency, with the attendant risks of rupee devaluation and therefore increased cost; there will still be a central government counter- guarantee; the unit will still function as a base load station, with 90 per cent guaranteed power availability; and since the first phase of the project has not been renegotiated, the government has presumably found acceptable the $20 million that Enron spent on the "education and project development process."

There is some gain on the transparency issue. It appears that the state government will make public the terms of the new deal, once the cabinet has taken a decision. There has not been any competitive bidding, but bench marking of costs seems to have been done with regard to one or more overseas power projects (with suitable modifications to suit the Indian situation). And, as already noted, there will be greater transparency in the selection of equipment suppliers, and in the determination of equipment specifications.

So, if the state cabinet clears the new agreement, all will end well after all. The Maharashtra State Electricity Board (MSEB) will have a better deal, Maharashtra will get the electricity it needs, Enron will be back in business as the largest foreign investor in India, and those who negotiate power contracts will be more careful in future. It must also be said that among all the politicians involved in the entire episode, the one who emerges with the maximum credit is Chief Minister Manohar Joshi. He tried hard to avoid cancellation, and insisted on renegotiation anyway, to emerge with a win-win situation.

Was Cancellation Necessary?

One critical question remains: Could this end result have been achieved without the cancellation of the contract that was announced in August? Beyond a point it is impossible to tell. Certainly, it took the threat of cancellation in April/May for Enron to even agree to reconsider some of the terms. But consider the known facts from that point. The Enron CEO offered right then (in a conversation with BUSINESS STANDARD, and reported in this paper) to switch the fuel for Phase I, from oil distillate to naphtha-which is less polluting and also not tied to dollar costs. She had said then that this would reduce the cost of power by up to 25 paise per unit. Enron also offered at around that time to reduce the capital cost of the second phase of the project, and some of the indications available then involved the same kind of figures that are now in the air: $300 million. This represented the saving available as a result of power generation equipment prices having fallen in the last couple of years, subsequent to the signing of the power purchase agreement between Dabhol and the MSEB.

It is far from clear whether the current renegotiation involves benefits that go over and above this. If they don't, the same benefits could have been availed of without the drama and international publicity of cancellation (though the fall-out of that will prove to be temporary, with the successful renegotiation).

Indeed, there is reason to believe that the terms of renegotiation could have been better without the cancellation, because Enron has agreed to absorb the cost of work disruption over the last four months, a cost that is estimated as being up to $200 million. Arguably, the cost of the project could have been reduced by a similar amount if such costs had not been incurred in the first place. With some justification, that cost could be laid at the door of Mr Gopinath Munde.

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Congress-I Official Assassinated in Andhra Pradesh

BK0112130095 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1230 GMT 1 Dec 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] In Andhra Pradesh, a Congress-I MP, Mr. Magunta Subbarama Reddy, was shot dead at his residence in Ongole today by some unidentified persons. He was 48. His gunman was also killed in the attack. According to police, the armed assailants suspected to be extremists (?burst) into his house and opened fire from a close range. Mr. Reddy was taken to hospital where he was pronounced dead. The chief minister, Mr. Chandrababu Naidu; the pradesh [state] Congress-I committee president, Mr. K. Rosaiah; the BJP [Bharatiya Janata Party] general secretary, Mr. M. Venkaiah Naidu; and several other leaders have condemned the killing. The state cabinet in an emergency meeting expressed deep condolences to the bereaved family. The state government has also decided to accord a state funeral and order an inquiry into the killing. The state home minister, Mr. A. Madhava Reddy, told newspersons a shortwhile ago that the two cars used in the attack have been found abandoned in Nunkulu village Chirala in Prakasam District. He said two former MLA's [Members of Legislative Assembly] were also injured in the incident.

Former Andhra Pradesh Chief Expels Legislators

BK0112050095 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0245 GMT 1 Dec 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The former Andhra Pradesh chief minister, Mr. N.T. Rama Rao, yesterday announced expulsion of 158 Telugu Desam [Party — TDP] legislators of Naidu faction from the party's primary membership. Addressing a press conference in Hyderabad, he said that the legislators who were earlier suspended and served show-cause notices have not submitted any explanation and they cease to be the members of the Telugu Desam legislature party with effect from the 29th of last month. Mr. Rama Rao said he had written to the assembly speaker also informing him of the expulsion of the members. The TDP legislators who were expelled by Mr. Rama Rao had thrown their weight with the chief minister, Mr. N. Chandrababu Naidu, after the vertical split in the TDP in August last.

Results of Uttar Pradesh Elections Announced

BK2911131695 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1230 GMT 29 Nov 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] In Uttar Pradesh, almost all the results of the urban local bodies have been declared. According to the state Election Commission, the BJP [Bharatiya Janata Party] has bagged eight of 11 mayor seats in the nagar nigam [municipal corporation] of the state. One each has gone in favor of the BSP [Bahujan Samaj Party], SP [Samajwadi Party], and independent. In nagarpalika parishad [municipal councils], results of 192 out 197 have been declared so far. The BJP has won 82 chairman seats, while independents got 65, followed by Samajwadi Party, 27; BSP, eight; Congress-I, 6; and Janata Dal, four. In nagar parishad [urban councils], out of 414 results declared, independents have clinched 229 chairman seats, BJP 100, while Samajwadi Party got 44, BSP, 21; and Congress-I, 12.

Meanwhile, the Lok Sabha has approved the proclamation of president's rule in Uttar Pradesh. Replying to the discussion on a statutory resolution, the home minister, Mr. S.B. Chavan, said the government cannot give a definite time frame for holding assembly elections in the state. He said the Center will take every possible step to protect the places of worship in Mathura and Varanasi. The minister said the Center is agreeable to give autonomous region status to Uttarakhand.

Minister Makes Statement on Elections in Kashmir

BK2811152395 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1230 GMT 28 Nov 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The government today declared in the Lok Sabha that there is no change in its policy to restore the democratic process in Jammu and Kashmir. In a suo moto statement, the home minister said efforts will continue to remove doubts about the feasibility of holding the polls in the state. Reiterating the government's disappointment over the election commission's decision, Mr. S.B. Chavan said there has been a significant change in the situation. The militancy was on the wane and this was clearly visible as Pakistan was increasingly resorting to infiltration of its own and other foreign nationals into the state to take direct control of the so-called insurgency. Mr. Chavan said the prime minister's important statement on the 4th of this month had several components, including the government's commitment to further strengthen the autonomy of the state within the constitution.

Earlier, the BJP [Bharatiya Janata Party] staged a walk out from the house following the speaker's rejection of the party's adjournment motion on Kashmir. The speaker, Mr. Shivraj Patil, ruled that adjournment motion is not a normal device and it should be used only in exceptional circumstances. He said the issue is of national importance and needs discussion. Earlier, arguing for the admissibility of the motion, the opposition leader, Mr. Atal Behari Vajpayee, criticized the government for its failure to create a congenial environment in the state for holding elections. He also criticized the

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prime minister's announcement of package on Kashmir from a foreign soil.

Islamabad TV on 'Reign of Terror' in Kashmir

BK2511141695 Islamabad PTV Television Network in English 1300 GMT 25 Nov 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] In occupied Kashmir, Indian troops let loose a reign of terror in various areas. At least 10 more people were martyred during clashes in Rajaori Kadal, Sumbal, and Kupwara. KASHMIR MEDIA SERVICE reports that RAW [Research and Analysis Wing] agents of Kuka Parray [Kashmiri Muslim rebel leader] group were involved in killing and abduction of Kashmiris in Sopor. Several Indian soldiers were also killed or wounded during retaliatory attacks by mojahedin in Kupwara District.

Complete strike was observed today all across occupied Kashmir to protest Rashtriya Rifles' brutal firing at urs [ceremonies marking death anniversary of a Muslim saint] participants of Hazrat Sheikh Nuruddin Wali in Badgam area. They killed at least five people and critically injured 17 others. Government and private offices and institutions, business establishments, bazaars, courts, banks, schools, and colleges remained closed and traffic remained off the road.

Meanwhile, RAW agents of Kuka Parray group, actively supported by troops, wreaked havoc in several localities of Srinagar, including Kamarwari, Batmaloo, Hari Singh High Street, and Lal Chowk.

Kashmir 'Chief' Arrested; Border Fencing To Begin

BK3011154395 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1430 GMT 30 Nov 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] In the Kashmir Valley, security forces arrested last night the self-styled chief of banned Jamaat-ul-Mojahedin, Firoze Ahmad Ghanai, alias General Abdullah, in Batwara, Srinagar. According to an official spokesman, elsewhere in the valley security forces arrested five militants and also recovered some arms and ammunition.

In Jammu and Kashmir, the work on the fencing of the 190-km-long international border between India and Pakistan will start soon. Announcing this at a press conference in Jammu today, the inspector general of BSF [Border Security Force], Jammu frontier, Mr. R.S. Mehta, said that smugglers and militants have shifted their routes to Jammu border following the border fencing in Punjab. The BSF has deployed more forces till the fencing comes up, he added.

Replying to a question, he said militancy in Doda region is on the decline. He added that people in the affected areas were helping the security forces in nabbing the militants.

Army Returns 53 Youths 'Rescued' From 'Militants'

BK0112054195 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1530 GMT 30 Nov 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] In Jammu and Kashmir, 53 youths rescued by the Army from the clutches of the militants were handed over to their parents at a function in Pulwama District today. Talking to our correspondent, the parents thanked the Army for rescuing their children. They disclosed that their children were taken at gunpoint when the demand of the militants for ransom was not met.

Meanwhile, the state government has set up a society with the governor as its chairman for the rehabilitation of the victims of militancy in the state. This was stated by the chief secretary, Mr. Ashok Kumar, in Jammu. He said the society will have a corpus of 1 crore rupees.

Radio Reports on Navy Plane Overhauling Center

BK0112103895 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0245 GMT 1 Dec 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] In Kerala, a major overhauling center for Sea Harrier aircraft of the Navy will be set up in Southern Naval Command at Kochi. Talking to newsmen in Kochi, the flag officer commanding in chief of the Southern Command, Vice Admiral Indrajit Bedi, said that the 310 crore-rupee center will be fully operational after four years and provide employment to 200 persons. The vice admiral also said that construction of the first phase of the 155 crore-rupee naval academy at Erumala will also begin during this financial year.

Iran

U.S. Moves on Algeria-Israel Ties Criticized

NC0112090495 Tehran RESALAT in Persian 19 Nov 95 p 2

[Political commentary: "Closeness Between Two Illegitimate Regimes!"]

[FBIS Translated Text] In the past few days some political circles have been reporting U.S. mediation to create friendship between the Zionist regime and Algeria. These reports can be traced to Israeli regime diplomatic sources.

This political move is a kind of joint production between these two unlawful systems. It seeks to mask the illicit

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nature of these two systems by further imposing them on the international community; they can thus jointly benefit from Washington's handouts to protect and consolidate their positions.

Tel Aviv and Algiers are the most unlawful political systems in their areas. Now U.S. diplomacy is trying to further disguise the domestic realities of domination by these two regimes by touting their bilateral diplomatic relations and reciprocal recognition. The Arabs were forced to submit, but to protect his illegitimate rule, Zeroual owes his Arab friends much; this is the price he has had to pay for his dictatorial seizing of power.

This is because of Washington's peaceseeking diplomacy (!) to acquire more influence in Africa. Against the background of this crisis, from which France—a former colonial power—is not safe, the United States is moving toward new management.

Such U.S. foreign policy risks are not rare. But in line with U.S. diplomatic practice, the objective is new political moves, the most salient being to acquire more repressive power in North Africa. This region is potentially one of the most important centers of principled Islamism [euphemistic term for fundamentalism].

If this happens, the Algerian rulers could continue to sacrifice democracy for some time to pay the West back for its service.

This time the United States is pitting nations against one another and, on the pretext of forging relations between the Zionist regime and the Algerian Muslims, it is inciting new moves against the militarist regime.

The people believe the domination by the militarists is unlawful, therefore they do not have the right to make decisions on foreign policy. Any decision would be vulnerable to developments, which are moving against the establishment and in favor of the people.

The same thing will happen in Algeria that happened with the former regime in Iran—the Pahlavi regime. The people did not want it, but relations were forged between Iran and the Zionist regime. They were terminated by the popular revolution.

The Algerian nation, which observed a week of mourning for the martyrdom of Dr. al-Shaqaqi, and cried for joy over the assassination of Rabin, will never legitimize the despotic Israeli regime.

Radio Views Reasons for Clinton's Belfast Visit

LD3011133995 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran in English 1130 GMT 30 Nov 95

[Unattributed commentary]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] U.S. President Bill Clinton arrived in Belfast, Northern Ireland, on 30 November in order to confer with the Sinn Fein leader concerning the peace process in Ireland.

He is the first U.S. president who visits Belfast. Since Clinton is a Protestant and the majority of the people in Northern Ireland too, some political analysts evaluate Clinton's visit to Belfast to be in line with his support for the former U.S. President John F. Kennedy in the face of Northern Ireland. Therefore, Clinton attempts to follow the policies of Kennedy and extend support for the Catholics of Northern Ireland against Britain. But the reality is that the USA support for Northern Ireland Catholics is not because of the American statesman's concern over the fate of the people of that region. Rather, Clinton is taking such a measure in order to maintain his political prestige in the face of the U.S. Republicans.

Also enjoying the support of 40 million Irish-Americans in the future presidential elections in the USA is something which cannot be easily neglected. In the U.S. community, where the Jews are the number one most powerful group, the Irish-Americans stand second power wise.

The U.S. president visits Northern Ireland under conditions, when since about a year ago to date, Dublin and London have taken some measures in order to establish peace in Northern Ireland.

Establishment of a cease-fire from the side of the Irish Republican army and holding the preliminary talks, repeatedly between the Sinn Fein leaders and the London officials, are examples of these efforts. These talks have failed so far due to Sinn Fein and London insistence on their own stances.

Mr. Clinton, however, tries to use the existing conditions, pressure London-Belfast, keep the upper hand in the Northern Ireland peace process and in this manner, declare that it has been the USA which is introduced peace in that region.

And now we should try to realize whether the concessions Britain has given in order to hold talks with the Irish officials comes just as a result of the U.S. pressure or will discussion on the ground of self-rule to nothern Ireland continue in the USA when Clinton is back home without winning what the USA has been pursuing to win? [as heard]

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Majles Speaker Nateq-Nuri Visits Bushehr

Discusses Afghanistan, Dayton Accord

LD3011172695 Tehran IRNA in English 1550 GMT 30 Nov 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Bushehr, Nov. 30, IRNA — Majles Speaker, Hojjat ol-Eslam 'Ali Akbar Nateq-Nuri, addressing a large gathering of people in Bushehr (southern iran), on Thursday [30 November] lauded the historical struggles of the local people, especially martyr Reisali Delvari against colonialists.

In the past, such a Basiji (volunteer force) such as Reisali Delvari stood against aggressor powers and today the brave people of Bushehr defend the values of the Islamic revolution hand in hand with their fellow countrymen, the speaker said.

He said Iran's principal policy is to defend the establishment of peace in the world, stressing that "we have always condemned war, bloodshed and massacre of innocent people."

Nateq-Nuri regretted the ongoing fratricide in Afghanistan and said it is a pity that the people of Afghanistan who have driven an aggressor such as former Soviet Union of their country are engaged in power struggle due to lack of prudence on the part of Afghan groups.

The Majles speaker said he considers the (Dayton) peace agreement to be unjust because it does injustice to the oppressed Bosnian Muslims and rewards the criminals.

The speaker warned against the US military presence in the Persian Gulf and pointed out that the US tries to misportray Iran as a threat to the region so as to plunder the region' s oil resources.

Nateq-Nuri stressed that the presence of foreign powers in the Persian Gulf is disturbing the security of the region and said "we feel ourselves to be members of a single family along with the regional countries."

Reisali Delvari was the leader of the revolt of the people of Tangestan (25 kilometers southeast of Bushehr) against occupation of Bushehr and Iranian islands by the British forces in early 20th century.

Says Funds Allocated for Nuclear Plant

LD3011205395 Tehran IRIB Television Third Program Network in English 1915 GMT 30 Nov 95

[FBIS Transcribed Excerpt] [passage omitted] The speaker also in Bushehr inspected the site of nuclear reactors. Accompanying Mr ['Ali Akbar] Nateq-Nuri, Vice President and head of Iran's Atomic Energy Organization, Mr [Reza] Amrollahi, said: $780 million have been allocated for the completion of the first phase of Bushehr atomic power plant.

Russians Begin Work on Bushehr Nuclear Plant

LD0112123295 Tehran IRIB Television First Program Network in Persian 1030 GMT 1 Dec 95

[FBIS Translated Text] The Russian deputy atomic energy minister has announced that Russian experts have begun working on Iran's nuclear power station in Bushehr.

The Bushehr plant, which will be equipped with a non-military 1,000-MW nuclear reactor, will start operation in the year 2000.

French Oil Company Seeks Contractors for Terminal

LD2911191195 Tehran IRNA in Persian 1543 GMT 29 Nov 95

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] London, 29 Nov (IRNA) — In order to implement its cooperation agreement with Iran, the French oil company Total is looking for contractors to build the necessary installations to transfer gas from the Siri Field to Dubai.

Total is planning to build a terminal and special installations in Dubai for the transfer of gas from the Siri Fields and is looking for a suitable contractor to carry out the work.

According to Jean de Casanova, Total deputy chairman in charge of the Middle East, the company is currently engaged in the necessary studies for the design and construction of the terminal.

He also referred to the agreement for the sale of gas from the Siri Field to Dubai and said: Talks on this issue will begin soon and may even include the export of gas from Siri to Dubai itself. [passage omitted]

According to the "buy-back" agreement, in addition to extracting oil for a 25-year period, Total can also export up to 100 million cubic feet (2.8 million cubic meters) of gas from Siri to Fath Field. Total owns 27.5 percent of the shares in that field. It can also inject gas into the oil fields of that region in order to reverse the downward trend in the production from those fields.

Turkish Official Comments on Bilateral Ties

NC3011180795 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran in Turkish 1630 GMT 29 Nov 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Speaking after his talks with officials in the Islamic Republic of Iran, Onur Oymen, Turkish Foreign Ministry undersecretary, described Iran as an important country in the region from the point

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of view of peace and security. IRNA has reported that Oymen gave a letter from President Suleyman Demirel to President Hashemi-Rafsanjani and quoted Demirel as saying that the Turkish Government will not allow any person, group, or media organ to carry out activities against Iran.

Onur Oymen stressed the need for the maintenance of Iraq's territorial integrity and said that Turkey and Iran must continue their talks on relations and regional issues.

Meanwhile, President Hashemi-Rafsanjani told Oymen that Turkey and Iran can play an important role to strengthen peace and security in the region. He said that agreements between the two countries to improve and promote cooperation should be put into effect.

Envoy Urges Realization of Palestinians' Rights

LD3011102295 Tehran IRNA in English 0926 GMT 30 Nov 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] New York, Nov. 30, IRNA — Iran believes that a comprehensive and just solution to the question of Palestine lies in full realization of all rights of the people of Palestine, said Iran's ambassador and permanent representative to the United Nations, Kamal Kharrazi, here Wednesday [29 November].

He was speaking before the 50th session of the UN General Assembly, meeting on the question of Palestine on November 29 marking the annual international day of solidarity with Palestinian people.

On this occasion he reiterates, once more, the support of the Government and people of the Islamic Republic of Iran for the Palestinian people and their just cause. He added that during the last fifty years, the question of Palestine has been prominently featured on the UN agenda, and it remains the most enduring subject since the establishment of the United Nations. However, the Palestinian people continue to suffer from extremely poor living conditions under the occupation, and the latest report of the special committee to investigate Israeli practises affecting the human rights of the Palestinian people indicates that the situation has deteriorated in many aspects during the past year, Iran's ambassador pointed out.

He also said that according to this report, the general situation of human rights of the Palestinians in the occupied territories remains very serious and a matter of grave concern. The inhumane practices of the Zionist regime, including sealing off or closure of areas of the occupied territories, demolition of homes, confiscation of land and expansion of settlements, have resulted in violations of fundamental freedoms of the Palestinian people, said the ambassador.

"A continuing source of tension in the occupied territories is the existence and expansion of settlements. In previous years, the violent actions of the armed Jewish settlers, have caused the death of a large number of Palestinians. One instance of these crimes was the horrible massacre of innocent worshippers in the Ibrahimi mosque in al-Khalil [Hebron] by these settlers who are protected by the Zionist regime's army," Kharrazi pointed out.

He also said that the expansion of settlements in the last two years has been clearly highlighted in the report of the special committee, reiterating that the situation regarding the expropriation of land is particularly serious in Bayt al-Moqdis [Jerusalem].

The israeli authorities have carried out a deliberate policy aimed at reducing the number of Arabs and Muslims in al-Qods [Jerusalem] and creating a new demographic, geographic and political situation in the city, the ambassador added. According to the report, "this policy has intensified since the signing of the Declaration of Principles," and the practice of closing Bayt al- Moqdis has worsened over the last year, Kharrazi stressed. He added, "It is the view of my delegation that the international community should particularly condemn such practises of the occupying power, as well as measures and decisions taken by those countries who help the Zionist regime in altering the character and status of the holy city of Jerusalem."

The increasing number of killings, detentions, and mistreatment of detainees are among other aspects of the generally inhumane practices of the occupying forces in Palestine, said Iran's permanent representative to UN. He went on to say, "During the past year, Israeli undercover units martyred several Palestinian activists within and outside the occupied territories. Furthermore, the Zionists continue to practise aggravated forms of torture in interrogating the Palestinians, which have sometimes also resulted in their death."

Kharrazi added, "As stated by the chairman of the special committee to investigate Israeli practices, the situation of Palestinian prisoners detained in prisons in the occupied territories and conditions of detention have actually deteriorated since the signing of the Oslo and Cairo agreements."

Iran's ambassador also said,"The Israeli mistreatment of the Palestine people is in line with the overall policies of the Zionist regime to dominate the region through inter-alia continued occupation of Palestine, southern Lebanon and the Golan Heights."

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"The same policy is pursued through enhancement of Israeli nuclear weapon technology which continues to be unchecked. The existence of nuclear weapon facilities in Dimona is an open secret which threatens the entire Middle East region. That is why Israel is so adamant in rejecting the NPT (nuclear Non—Proliferation Treaty) and in putting its nuclear facilities under the IAEA [International Atomic Energy Agency] safeguard regime, Kharrazi added. Therefore, with such flagrant violations of international law, one can recognize why Israel tends to create imaginary threats so that its misdeeds in the region and beyond can be justified, he pointed out.

Kharrazi continued, "It is clear to all impartial observers in the Middle East that the passage of time has not changed the realities prevailing there. Equally clear is the fact that mere expression of analysis of the situation by those familiar with the history of the region does not in any way affect the success or failure of the process."

He added, "The root causes of the problem must be addressed if we are to find a just solution to the problems in the Middle East."

"It is in this context that we believe that a comprehensive and just solution to the question of Palestine and the other occupied territories lies in full realization of all rights of the people of Palestine, including the return of all Palestinian refugees to their own land enabling them to exercise their inalienable rights to self- determination and the liberation of all occupied Palestinian, Lebanese and Syrian territories," concluded the ambassador.

Habibi Addresses Province Businessmen on Economy

LD2911143895 Tehran IRNA in English 1415 GMT 29 Nov 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Arak, Central Prov., Nov. 29, IRNA — The failure to generate value added and inadequate production is the main reason for inflation and high prices of goods in the country, First Vice-President Hassan Habibi has said.

Habibi, addressing a gathering of executive managers of Central Province on Tuesday [28 November], said that the cash injected into market is mostly spent on daily consumption and non-productive affairs.

The sale of public investment bonds is considered as one of the government's policies to absorb liquidity and to use it in creating jobs and inreasing production.

Those who are interested in purchasing the public investment bonds are mostly among the low-income strata of society, Habibi added.

Meanwhile he stated that creating a balance between supply and demand and drawing up an appropriate consumption pattern would play a key role in curbing inflation and pushing down prices.

Majles Told To Observe Budget 'Priorities'

LD0112102795

[FBIS Editorial Report] Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran Provincial Network in Persian at 0750 GMT on 1 December broadcasts a live relay of the Friday sermons delivered in Tehran by Ayatollah Mohammad Emami-Kashani, senior member of the Guardian Council. His first sermon, which lasts 30 minutes, is devoted to discussing the various aspects of the Day of Judgement. In his discourse, he draws numerous examples from the Koran, the Tradition, and the works of prominent religious scholars and philosophers.

In the 26-minute second sermon, Emami-Kashani at first speaks about the week's various occasions and anniversaries, such as the forthcoming birthday of Imam 'Ali and other imams. He then commemorates the death anniversary of Ayatollah Modarres, who was killed by government agents in the 1920s. He provides a lengthy account of his life and struggles and describes the historical conditions which prevailed in Iran at the time of his death.

Another occasion he commemorates is Basij Week. He praises the Basij force and underlines the importance of its social, cultural, and political role.

He then briefly talks about Bosnia and the budget bill as follows: "About Bosnia-Herzegovina, unfortunately, although what was done — which culminated in the cease-fire — was an agreement, but, at the same time, it meant that the Serbian race will acquire a status in the heart of Europe and racism will become legalized. That is a negative and very frightening point in the 20th century. In a world in which there is talk of the rights of nations it is truly regrettable.

"I will say a word to the Majles about the country's budget, which the honorable government presented to the Majles this week. Under the Constitution the government must prepare the budget bill and present it to the Majles for ratification. Of course, the government has worked very hard on economic issues and has created a very good economic structure, which continues at various levels. But the issue of the budget is a very important one. Both the government and the Majles should pay great attention to the budget since the lower the expenditure, the lower the inflation rate.

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"Of course, the honorable deputies are aware of that. But perhaps there may be some deputies who might be brought under pressure from their constituencies, to the effect that this and that should be made good. And they might express certain views on the budget and priorities might be forgotten. Priorities must not be forgotten.

"Whenever budget bills have gone to the Guardian Council from the Majles, it has been said at the Council that expenditures should match needs, consumption should match needs, and priorities must definitely be observed. God willing, the deputies recognize that responsibility and know it, but I am dutybound to point it out in this holy place."

Emami-Kashani then concludes the second sermon with prayers in Persian and Arabic.

Navy Reportedly Preparing 'Modern War' Plans

LD3011210995 Tehran IRNA in Persian 2008 GMT 30 Nov 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Nushahr, IRNA, 30 November 1995 — A senior military official said a "modern war" plan is being prepared by the naval forces of the army.

Rear Admiral "Ashkbus Daneh-Kar" [punctuation as received], deputy in charge of coordination at the Khatam al-Anbiya naval headquarters in Bushehr said on Thursday [30 November] that the plan's preparation started in 1368 [Iranian year beginning in March 1989] and that there is an effort to complete it within the next few years.

He said that the naval forces of the army will revise their present tactics and doctrine through the plan.

The military official said the Islamic Republic of Iran has achieved 20 percent of the logistical goals of the project by relying on Iranian experts and without using any foreign currency.

He said the oil war in the Persian Gulf was a clear example of the modern naval wars which increased the significance of the navy.

SALAM Reports More Gubernatorial Appointments

NC2811215295 Tehran SALAM in Persian 15 Nov 95 p 2

[Report from the News Desk: "New Appointments at the Interior Ministry Continue"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Interior Minister 'Ali Mohammad Besharati issued separate orders appointing Mohammad Hasan Malek as the governor of Lengeh district, Nosratollah Khaza'i as governor of Kamyaran, Hojatollah Sadeqi as governor of Neyriz, and Habibollah Makipur as governor of Shushtar. All of the appointments have been approved and they have assumed their duties.

According to the Interior Ministry's public relations department, the interior minister also issued instructions for the appointment of Yunes Mosayyebzadeh as governor of the newly-formed district of Jolfa in East Azerbaijan.

Spirituality, Societal Role of Clergy Viewed

96LA0047A Tehran ASR-E MA in Persian 18 Oct 95 p 2

[FBIS Translated Text] **Judgment regarding the clergy on the whole is impossible and must be categorized like that of secular intellectuals and other social strata and groups and then each category judged separately.**

As the guardians of the sanctuary of religion and the carriers of divine values, the clerics have a particular social role.

Even though the title of "cleric" or spiritual leader has become common in our culture only in the past few centuries and the identification of the social stratum is not very old, such structural bases as allotting more social roles and divisions of labor have made the existence of this institution inevitable.

Today, many of the limited religious duties (including the study of religious jurisprudence) have permanent and official custodians, which means that, in fact, in terms of structure, other Muslims are exempted from such duties.

The idea that religion does not need custodians and a group should not study religious jurisprudence specifically and collectively does not conform to the need for a division of labor due to the complexities of societies.

On the other hand, because of the deep and expansive functions that religion has acquired in the arena of politics and society, naturally, we may observe certain divisions and differences in the institution of the clergy and regard the claim of a united and "caste"-like identity of this stratum an exaggerated claim as far from the truth.

All the conditions that resulted in the Islamic revolution and also the consequences of this revolution are true evidence of this claim that the clergy, despite having a common educational method, preserving the boundaries of religion, etc., because of political leanings, are divided into various categories, as are other social strata and groups.

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Some played a radical role in the creation of the Islamic revolution, and in practice, the leadership of this great revolution was in their hands in both the capital and provincial cities. On the other hand, some of the clerics propagated expediency and conservatism, and even at times participated in conspiracies to counter the leadership of the revolution. Also, socially, the clerics have, like other social strata, taken a variety of positions. Some of them have officially and in practice represented the interests of the advantaged social strata in the society. Of course, some, too, have had no systematic relationship with any group and have mostly concerned themselves with promoting the social status of this guild.

Hence, judgment regarding the clergy on the whole is impossible and must be categorized in the same way as secular intellectuals and other social strata and groups, and then each category judged separately.

To consider factors such as the "silence of the clergy" or their "manner of making a living" a basis for the unity of the profession of religious scholars and base our analysis regarding their political and social leanings on these factors is a sort of reductionism and simplification, which does not conform to the complex realities.

The professional sellers of religion (who label their rivals with opposition to the clergy for no reason) and ill-intentioned and anti-clerical irreligious individuals, like the two blades of scissors, cooperate in practice and inflict the harshest damage on religion and the clergy.

We must honestly say that what builds the substance and foundation of the united identity of the clerical stratum is the profession of being a cleric, with the sense that the main function of the clergy is to guard and reproduce lofty and divine values, values that result in the strengthening of moral ties and give meaning to life on this worthless earth. Hence, anything that disrupts the main duty and function of the clerical stratum will harm the identity of this group and offset its benefits. Some of the causes of the disruption of the identity and sanctity of the clergy are:

1. The clerics' own failure to practice piety and simple living and being immersed in material concerns are the most dangerous mechanisms that profane spirituality and the clergy and severely reduce the spiritual influence of the religious scholars.

Living and having empathy with the oppressed has been practiced by the prophets and God's people. His Holiness Imam Khomeyni was able to penetrate the hearts of millions of Muslims in the same manner and with the influence of his words changed the world. It was he who frequently beckoned the clerics to live as seminary students, who considered most of what is permissible to be not recommended and sometimes forbidden for this stratum, and who complained about outrageous religious scholars, because due to the guiding role of the clerics, any sort of transgression by them would spread to large groups and cause the misguidance of masses of the people. It is said in reported sayings that transgression by a religious scholar is like destroying a ship, which drowns the transgressor and kills a large number of people.

2. Another danger for the clerics is arranging inappropriate connections with political power. Historical experience has proven that during the time of the tyrannical rulers, any kind of connection between the institutions of the clergy and political power has resulted in the weakening of this institution. The phrase "the preachers of the kings" is an unpleasant and insulting term which stands as a memento in our political culture from such times.

Today, with the blessings of the Islamic revolution, with Iran having a religious government and the two institutions of religion and government having been combined to some extent, the problem of devising the relationship with political power has assumed a more complex form.

In particular, the clerics who endorse the government do not want to answer for all the actions and behaviors of the government are in a more difficult position. This group must take care, firstly, not to be corrupted by power and in this way not to have a gap created between itself and divine values. Second, the gravity of the responsibilities of executive, judicial, and legislative affairs should not appear so overwhelming to them that they resort to inaction and fear of approaching political power. Of course, maintaining a balance requires capabilities and abilities with which the clergy must equip itself.

On the other hand, that group of clerics who consider the purpose of the acquisition of knowledge to be gaining political and social privileges more than regarding it a limited religious duty inflict the most harm on the image of the clergy. Given that the Prophet in his mission to call and guide the people did not seek any wages, for the trustees of His Holiness to seek power, wealth, and status in performing such a grave responsibility is quite unjustified.

3. Another blight that weakens the institution of the clergy as religious scholars and Islamic experts in preserving and improving these values is lack of attention to eliminating intellectual crises and indifference

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to questions that are raised due to the requirements of the time.

The great problem with official and traditional perceptions of religion is lack of attention of such perceptions to the needs and mental and spiritual preoccupation of contemporary man. The indicator of the dynamism and vitality of the clergy is its level of involvement in solving the crises of the religious intellectual community and challenging the intellectual trends of the time.

One could be satisfied, like a religious chanter, with continuously repeating a few chants and seeing a pot overflowing with questions at the bedside of a despairing religious jurist, but what our time expects of religion goes beyond the reactive and defensive guardianship of religious laws. Our thoughtful and intelligent generation, which is immersed in various opinions and beliefs, cannot accept the religious seminaries being preoccupied with issues that have no relevance to the vital issues of the intellectual arena. The claim of establishing a religious government especially requires scholarly preparation and mobilization, a monumental problem which the seminaries and the clerical institutions have never faced before.

In our opinion, these three characteristics—that is, attention to simple living, fighting corruption resulting from power, and scholarly preparation to enter into the arena of intellectual challenges—are the secrets for the survival and success of the clergy and will insure their divine mission.

Unfortunately, in our society certain political currents take advantage of the image of the clergy and through hypocritical defense of this stratum continue the political fights against their rivals. These groups establish trenches behind religion and the clergy and engage in throwing stones at their rivals. They blame the clergy for any reaction by the opposite side to their faction and the clergy affiliated with them and try to deceive the public by crying out that Islam and the clergy will be lost, whereas they themselves have inflicted most of the blows in recent years on the institution of the clergy and destroyed even those clerics affiliated with their faction who have not completely accepted their views.

Exposing this hypocritical policy that uses religion to advance itself is primarily the duty of all the faithful and sincere forces who must preserve the sanctity of the clergy and, secondarily, the actual duty of the clergy and religious jurists, who must draw clear lines between themselves and such political operations and sincerely guard their own ranks.

The importance and the role that the clergy have had and continues to have, both in the Islamic revolution and the government of the Islamic Republic, has resulted in attracting attention to this stratum more than other strata and has caused it to become the envy of political operators. On the other hand, some of the enemies of religion and government, by referring to the bitter experience of the rule of the Christian church in the Middle Ages, spread their negative propaganda regarding the corruption and ineptitude of the religious government and the reluctance of the clergy to govern.

These two groups—that is, the professional sellers of religion (who label their rivals as being anti-clergy for no reason) and the irreligious and anticlerical groups with ill intentions—like the two blades of scissors, by cooperating in practice inflict the most harm on religion and the clergy and make their image appear ugly.

Making "flexible" and "easygoing" religion a tool for violence and thus creating a medieval image of it is the greatest insult and cruelty to the sacred image of the Prophet, who was the blessing of the two worlds.

Hence, we do not believe that the clergy must be isolationist to remain pious, by either leaving politics or always appearing in a fatherly role above political factionalism. They, too, like any other social group, must openly discuss and defend their political positions and naturally in doing so take political sides and accept the consequences. This method of revealing positions is more beneficial than going "without a line" or "above the line," which at best is regarded as a sort of evasion of politics.

The late imam acted quite in accordance with the political "line" and was not afraid of scolding the clerics. Even through his endorsements, which resulted in the branching of the Militant Clergy Association, it became clear that the clergy is not united in its general politics to act beyond a political line or lines. Rather, for each kind of political behavior, one must be in the heart of the political arena and take sides quite partially.

In addition to the imam, other high-ranking officials of the regime of the Islamic Republic, like the grand leader, the president, the speaker of the Majles, and the honorable head of the Judicial Branch, are each interested in a particular political side, and it is natural for serious and professional political elements to have clear and defined positions. Only those can claim not to have a political line who consider religion a personal matter, one that regulates the worship relationship between man and God, even though many of them, by raising such an issue, pursue their own particular line. Otherwise, as soon as we accept a social role for religion and accept a political religion, we must also accept a social and political partisanship and interpret religion in a way that conforms to our political positions.

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Now the question arises, what is the way for coexistence among those who have various interpretations of religion, and what mechanism will prevent conflict among the different parts of the institution of the clergy?

In response, it must be said that by accepting the possibility of the existence of various readings of religion (and that each interpreter, while insisting on beliefs and values acceptable to him, would not regard others with different interpretations to be outside the religion and would pursue tolerance and moderation in dealing with them), the religious government and the regime of religious guardianship can have a similar parallel on the level of political party activities and competition, with the presence of clerics of differing viewpoints. This may be the only way to do justice to the Constitution of the Islamic Republic of Iran (that insists on elections for all executive and legislative levels).

Students, Paper Comments on Sorush Speech

96LA0046A Tehran 'ASR-E MA in Persian
18 Oct 95 pp 1, 8

[FBIS Translated Text] The Islamic Society of Tehran University Technical College Students issued a statement on the disruption of Dr. Sorush's speech at Tehran University's Martyr Chemran Hall by a group called Friends of the Hezbollah. The statement said: We have put all of our effort into doing our duty, though it may not please some people. They may hit us and destroy respect for the university, which is guarded everywhere in the world. Instead of taking these slaps, blows and insults from the brothers, we have kept ourselves safe from the Ba'thist enemy's bombs and bullets so that we can stand before the chaste imams (peace be upon them) on judgment day.

Another part of this statement said: All the logical and wise people who attended the session claim that the clash and the struggle was completely one-sided, in the sense that the disruption was caused by a group of unaware friends and the request for calm and the effort to create a sound cultural atmosphere for the exchange of thoughts and ideas was made by the ones who organized the meeting. Here we would like to remind all thinkers, whether they be from the nation's press or from the political and cultural parties and organizations, that we did not do this purely for a person or persons or out of an ulterior motive at the request of a specific individual; rather, we did this in precise accordance with the views of his holiness the imam (peace be upon him) and following the exalted leader's guidance and the gains of the evolutionary thought of Master Motahari (peace be upon him), and we did it only to create a sound cultural atmosphere in a calm and completely academic university environment.

Continuing this statement, the aforementioned society discussed how the incident took place. It adds: After Dr. Sorush came into the hall, the attack by those hostile to the sanctity of ideas and freedom of expression began at the entrance to the women's section. The clash (the one-sided attack) was so intense that none of the sisters felt safe. Fearing that they would unwittingly be attacked, they took refuge along the walls of the amphitheater. The sisters who had never witnessed such an incident cried out of fear and worry. Those present chanted the slogan "death to fascism" at the attackers in protest. At the same time the attackers, throwing tables and chairs, attacked Dr. Sorush.

On the other hand, one member of the Friends of the Hezbollah, referring to the statement from the Tehran University Student Islamic Society, said: As portrayed in this statement, it is as if a strike force attacked the site to obstruct a scholarly university talk with complete rudeness, beginning by striking, hitting blows and destroying and even with insults and swearing, and then they fled like thieves. The letter adds: The organizers of the meeting, who claim to be advocates of freedom of thought and expression and a sound cultural atmosphere, formed a two-sided security barrier and fortress with the help of the university police, and did not even permit those who looked religious or suspicious to enter the university building (much less the lecture hall).

['ASR-E MA] There has been a striking increase in violent and disruptive clashes of this type with the approaching Majles elections, and this is not natural. The strategy of the traditional right is to intensify the conflict and disagreement among the its rival political factions and to raise the specter of the danger of opposition to the clergy and Islam, in order thereby to persuade some political factions (the new left) to join in a coalition with it, out of fear of it getting power. Therefore, one cannot ignore the role of the traditional right behind the aforementioned events and others. This likelihood is reinforced when we realize that some elements of the traditional right have influence at the decision-making levels of organizations and publications affiliated with the hezbollah.

While we condemn such actions that damage the sound atmosphere for the exchange of ideas and thought and the dignity of the university environment. We ask all political and non-political groups, especially the hezbollah brothers, to be careful to prevent such clashes.

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Mojahedin of Islamic Revolution Meeting Advertised

96LA0046C Tehran 'ASR-E MA in Persian 18 Oct 95 p 1

[FBIS Translated Text] In the Name of God, the Merciful, the Compassionate

Question and Answer Session

To promote greater understanding of the positions of the Mojahedin of the Islamic Revolution Organization in various areas having to do with domestic policy, foreign policy and economic and cultural matters, a question and answer session will be held, to be attended by the organization's officials.

All brothers and sisters wishing to attend this meeting are invited to come to the organization's office on Tuesday 8/16/1374 [7 November, 1995]. Address: Daneshgah Street, between Iranmehr and Sezavar, Ashna'i Alley, Number 9.

'ASR-E MA Reviews First Year

96LA0046D Tehran 'ASR-E MA in Persian 18 Oct 95 pp 1, 7

[FBIS Translated Text] With the publication of issue 26, 'ASR-E MA begins its second year. In the first issue's editorial we addressed the necessity to discuss our positions and final views without any ambiguity, and we emphasized diversity of thoughts and ideas and the competition of opinions. We enumerated our guiding principles in the publication of 'ASR-E MA as follows:

A. observing moral principles and adherence to truth and faith;
B. dealing with affairs critically, and at the same time fairly and logically;
C. discussing and emphasizing the most important issues and the most essential political, social and economic affairs;
D. avoiding the creation of disruption or engaging in fruitless controversy.

Now, on the first anniversary of the publication of 'ASR-E MA, this is an appropriate opportunity for us to review the positions and viewpoints presented in the last year, and to discuss our performance with our respected readers.

During this period we have sincerely tried not to deviate from truth and honesty. To the extent that we are able we will explicitly discuss the recommendations of our readers, and we will print criticisms and amplifications without deletion or editing. Of course our readers will have to judge the extent of our success in adhering to these principles. It is interesting, however, for us to know that throughout this year, and despite the publication of tens of articles and critical discussions in various areas, there has never been even one legal complaint or claim against 'ASR-E MA.

2. [no number 1 as published] Throughout the year of publication, we have put our efforts into the most important and outstanding political, social and economic issues. The result of these efforts was 121 articles on domestic policy, 46 articles on foreign policy, 45 articles on economic affairs and 15 articles on cultural and social issues.

In all of these matters, we have analyzed, done clear studies, completely open critiques and evaluations and have presented our views. We have not insisted on opposition and exaggerating the weaknesses and forgetfulness of the powers of government. Our goal is improvement and our intent is preserving and maintaining respect for the revolution and reinforcing the government that has come from it. Therefore, in the study of affairs, we have kept in mind the government's strengths and proper actions along with its weaknesses. We have discussed the issues sympathetically and with concern and at the same time clearly. In foreign policy, if we criticized the Islamic Republic of Iran's position on the Arab-Israeli peace and participation in the American-English consortium on Azerbaijan's oil, at the same time we have praised measures such as establishing positive relations with Turkmenistan and close ties with Russia and India. In economic affairs, if we criticized the weaknesses and unsuccessful measures in the First Five-Year Plan, we have also emphasized its positive achievements and measures.

Some friends have complained repeatedly that 'ASR-E MA is excessively serious, and some have also advised us to get involved in controversial issues to increase our popularity. As for our goal, although it is not an unprecedented experience, there were at least a handful of precedents in the area of political and press activity, and in this work we have relied on our readers' profound powers of discernment and understanding.

In the matter of domestic policy, which has been emphasized in 'ASR-E MA more than other areas, our series of articles classifying the political groups and factions within the government has been welcomed by readers. The distinction of the aforementioned articles was not in the fact that everything in them was correct, but in their freshness and innovation. In those articles we sought to clarify the ideological and political lines between the existing factions and to give our readers the distinctions and extent of power of each one as standards and criteria for analyzing domestic events. The attempts

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by some publications and political factions to do similar things and also the criticism of 'ASR-E MA's articles on this show more than anything else the need for this that existed in our political society.

The numerous articles criticizing the proposed press law were also discussions that received attention. When the press accepted this, discussions about this motion were brought out from behind closed doors into open debate. Ultimately, after a period of discussion and study, and despite the support for this motion by some political groups, even some of the deputies who had proposed the motion refused to support it and the aforementioned motion was finally rejected in the Majles Culture and Islamic Guidance Commission.

There were other articles that discussed malfunctions and deficiencies, clearly but sympathetically and responsibly, such as "The Incident at Islamshahr," "Study of the Deeds and Strategies of the Imposed War" and "We and the Issue Known as Human Rights." This orientation, which is also clearly evident in other 'ASR-E MA economic, cultural, and political articles, arises from the general belief that an important part of the vulnerabilities and frustrations arises from malfunctions and inattention, and that evaluation of these instances must be done alertly and courageously. The reasons and the factors in the frustrations must be uncovered and understood, and then decisive efforts must be made to overcome them.

Unfortunately, due to ideas such as "discussing weaknesses will demoralize the public," "this will make the enemy happy," or "it will inform him of our internal realities," have kept us from doing very much proper evaluation of our frustrations and learning from experience. Yet the logic of the Koran and the life of the Noble Prophet (peace be upon him) are completely alien to such a point of view. In successes, frustrations, defeats, and victories, from the battles of Badr and Uhud to the Hadibiyeh Peace to the Battle of Hunayn, the Koran clearly and plainly evaluates and analyzes events. It warns and reprimands the Muslims about their shortcomings and mistakes, enumerates the reasons for their victories and defeats; it never reasons that discussing weaknesses, defects, and mistakes might make enemies happy or cause them to commit abuses, nor does it engage in covering the truth or speaking in superficialities.

The elections for the Fifth Majles and the related evident and hidden events have been another area of special emphasis for 'ASR-E MA. Examples of these events include the amendment to the election law, Motion on Determinative Supervision by the Guardian Council and other efforts and measures made by some of political factions to guarantee their success in the coming elections, such as factional appointments and dismissals, and other things of this nature.

Our goal in discussing these things has been on the one hand to provide clear discussions of efforts to monopolize and illegal or irresponsible measures, and on the other hand to persuade all the factions to adhere to the rules of the game in sound political competition.

One of the most important, and perhaps the core of the problems and malfunctions in our society, is the current economic crisis. Thus, studies and analyses of economic problems and the evaluation of decisions in this regard have received more attention from 'ASR-E MA than other matters. In most of the economic articles we have tried to stay away from the usual slogans and complaining and to do expert studies, and also to do critical studies of the development model they have adopted based on the first and second five-year plans, as well as of the policies adopted in this area. Although the aforementioned critiques and analyses have received little attention from the economic policymakers, experience and what has actually happened have borne out the correctness of these analyses and forecasts.

Cultural matters are among the discussions that unfortunately have received less emphasis in 'ASR-E MA compared to other subjects, although we believe that in the future 'ASR-E MA should pay more attention than before to this area. We consider the shortage of cultural discussions to be one of the weaknesses of 'ASR-E MA, but one of the major reasons for this inattention must be considered the limited number of pages and the presentation of urgent matters in other areas to which attention was necessary.

In any case, in this area also 'ASR-E MA has sought to recognize internal vulnerabilities and has looked for internal solutions. Among the cultural articles we have presented to our respected readers have been "Majles Legislation Prohibiting Use of Satellite Reception Equipment," "Cultural Factors Influencing Our Current Identity," "Vulnerabilities in Iran's Written Culture," and supervision of cultural activities.

'ASR-E MA and Readers

In the last year our respected readers have played an important role in overcoming the deficiencies in 'ASR-E MA, with their criticism and recommendations. The aforementioned criticisms and recommendations were of two types. Some had to do with the contents of the articles in the publication, while others had to do with form and structure. Most of them had to do with the limited number of pages, the long intervals between

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publication, the existence of many errors and 'ASR-E MA's inappropriate distribution.

Although we have tried to overcome the aforementioned defects as much as we are able, we acknowledge that we have not been that successful in this effort. This has been due to the limited number of pages and the long intervals between publication caused by limited financial resources, and this obstacle remains. With regard to distribution, steps have been taken. Although recently the distribution situation has seen tangible improvement, it is not yet satisfactory. With regard to the abundance of errors, we must also say that due to the financial limitations 'ASR-E MA lacks an independent typesetting department. If we add to this problem the fact that the editorial staff is not professional, then this malfunction will be justifiable to some extent.

Despite all of these things, in the future we will try to minimize these defects in the near future, and the pages of the publication should be varied technically and graphically. We begin the second year of 'ASR-E MA with the draft document on the Mojahedin Organization of the Islamic Revolution of Iran's positions, and we hope that the aforementioned positions will be the basis for more active and extensive involvement in various areas of public affairs.

Ayatollah Azeri-Qomi on Religious Jurisprudence

96LA0046F Tehran 'ASR-E MA in Persian 18 Oct 95 p 8

[FBIS Translated Text] My views have changed greatly. We believed that traditional theology cannot be changed. Therefore, if we were to say for example in the traditions or the theological books that a village should have two automobiles, no one would believe it. Unfortunately, in our seminaries no change has taken place and there has been no change in the tone or essence of the theological lessons, and no conformity with the time and the place has been achieved.

Ayatollah Azeri-Qomi was asked in an interview with the weekly publication SOBH, in view of your previous positions, we think you have made a serious change compared to previous years. While answering the above, he said: Our government theology is different from the theology of the seminaries, and seminary theology is different from government theology, in the sense that the theology in the seminaries bears no relation to the issues of the time; if someone had the nerve to try to change this trend, he would be booed.

Elsewhere in his interview, Ayatollah Azeri-Qomi said: In the past we said that we did not accept progressive theology, but now we say that we accept progressive theology.

Banking Problems Blamed on Non-Islamic Regulations

96LA0049A Tehran RESALAT in Persian 2 Sep 95 p 15

[FBIS Translated Text] **Tehran (IRNA)—The Islamic banking law by itself has no shortcomings, and the present shortcomings concern the implemental bylaws and the level of readiness of the banking system professionally and in terms of expertise.**

Taj Mohammad Qojavand, an expert of the national banking network who was speaking on the occasion of Islamic Banking Week, made the above statement and added: The second problem is the supervisory system, with which at the present the banking system is grappling. On the whole, in granting loans, etc., due to the lack of skilled experts and experienced overseers, there are problems. He said: In the past few years, the banks have been successful in absorbing interest-free loans resources, but because of the hindering factors in the instructions and implemental regulations, they have not been very successful in implementing the most important part of this paragraph of the law, that is, providing the conditions and resources for work for qualified people, providing the tools, and creating jobs by granting interest-free loans. At the same time, in the consumer affairs and urgent need sector, that is, offering loans for treatment, preparing dowries, marriages, and the repair and rental of housing, they have spent billions of rials of their resources.

The banking expert said: When the budget law for this year specifies that the banking system must not inject more than 7,000 billion rials into the national economy, the difference of delaying the payment of the financial debts to the banking system alone can be the equivalent of this amount in rials.

Of course, the difference in the finance, usance, and other foreign credit rates exceeds this amount in the banking system. Given this situation, the banks face a major problem: first, there is the cash flow shortage and indebtedness to the Central Bank; second, the ceiling of granting loans can no longer help the private sector and new projects.

Increase in Assets of Export Bank Noted

96LA0049B Tehran RESALAT in Persian 2 Sep 95 p 15

[FBIS Translated Text] **Economic Division—The total assets of the Saderat Bank of Iran until the end of last month was announced as exceeding 27.199 trillion rials [R], which compared to a similar time last year shows an increase of more than R7 trillion.**

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According to a report by the Public Relations Office of the Saderat Bank of Iran, during this period also the total deposits in the bank, including temporary, interest-free loan savings, short-term and long-term investment deposits, and other deposits, were $13.198 trillion, which compared to the above-mentioned period shows an increase of more than R2 trillion.

Nurbakhsh Discusses Banking Activities

96LA0049C Tehran RESALAT in Persian 5 Sep 95 p 15

[Report on interview with Dr. Mohsen Nurbakhsh, director general of the Central Bank of the Islamic Republic of Iran, by unidentified correspondents; place and date not given]

[FBIS Translated Text] **Economic Division—Since the start of the implementation of the new economic policies, $700 million in open credit has been secured for the import of goods and raw materials needed in the country from the export foreign currency funds.**

Dr. Mohsen Nurbakhsh, the director general of the Central Bank of the Islamic Republic of Iran, made this announcement in a brief interview with the economic correspondent of RESALAT and added: Thus far, $200 million of the foreign currency obtained from non-petroleum exports have been purchased by the banking system.

Outside the "Sixth Islamic Banking Seminar," he spoke to our correspondent and said: This is while the three-month time for the return of the foreign currency gained from exports has not yet ended for many exporters.

Concerning the level of loans granted by the banking system, Dr. Nurbakhsh said: Since the beginning of the implementation of the interest-free banking law until the end of Khordad [21 June] this year, 34,000 billion rials have been granted in loans by the banking system.

According to our correspondent's report, in the opening ceremonies of the "Sixth Islamic Banking Seminar" Dr. Nurbakhsh also emphasized the importance of education and pointed out: The banks must plan to educate the people about the implementation of interest-free banking.

He also added: In training the personnel, we must not stop with having a series of specialized courses; rather, comprehensive programs must be organized.

The director general of the Central Bank said: Giving information to depositors in regards to how their resources are used in the banking system is one of the very important issues that even the president has emphasized.

He emphasized: The bank customers must also be informed about each of the Islamic contracts used in the banking system.

Dr. Nurbakhsh mentioned the issue of the stability of the monetary system, the decrease in the number of present tools in the banking system, and the relationship between the decrease in the value of money and inflation as among the important issues that must be studied.

Regarding the expansion of Islamic banking, he said: Islamic banking has been established and become routine not only in Iran but in other countries as well. At the present time, and in every phase, new countries, especially Islamic counties, are joining this system.

Based on this report, Ayatollah Gholamreza Rezvani, a member of the Council of Guardians, as the next speaker in this seminar, said: If the economic system in a society is such that when a poor or a rich person procures his needed consumer goods, the poor person buys his needed goods more expensively than the rich person, and the rich person receives it at a lower price, this society will not last, and this is the reason why usury is prohibited.

He also emphasized: If the law of the interest-free banking system is not implemented by the officials and the personnel of the banking system as it should be, its corruption in religious terms will be worse than that of a for-interest banking system.

The member of the Council of Guardians emphasized: If when a customer goes to the bank and does not know on the basis of which Islamic contract he is receiving a loan, and the bank gives money to such people, in fact, no contract has taken place, and whatever is done with the money is religiously prohibited.

He added: The officials of the banking network must inform the customers who receive loans from the bank under what conditions and what specifications the loan is granted.

Ayatollah Rezvani said: The basis for the work of the officials of the banking system must be belief and faith, and those who are in the banking system must be believers, must be committed, and must not violate the religious instructions under any circumstances.

Tehran Deputy: Banking Sector Needs Supervision

96LA0049D Tehran RESALAT in Persian 5 Sep 95 p 15

[Report on interview with Hojjat ol-Eslam Dari-Najafabadi, deputy from Tehran and member of the

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Planning and Budget Committee, by unidentified correspondents; place and date not given]

[FBIS Translated Text] **Economic Division—The most important duty of the banking system is to devise appropriate incentive policies to attract more cash flow and direct it toward production and investment.**

Making this statement in an interview with our correspondent, Hojjat ol-Eslam Dari-Najafabadi the deputy from Tehran said: In recent years, for various reasons, cash flow in the society has had a great deal of growth, and on the average, about 25 percent has been added to it annually. In order to prevent the inflationary effects of cash flow, the banking network has an important duty.

He added: The banks must prevent its flow into speculation and middleman functions by making use of particular methods such as selling partnership papers and directing the financial resources toward investment and production affairs because if the cash flow increases but has no return and leaves no effect on the national economy, it will have destructive consequences.

He added: Devising the monetary and foreign currency policies, arranging the repayment of foreign debts, and establishing a foreign currency balance, regulating the supply and demand market of money in the society, and preserving the purchasing power of the national currency are among the important duties of the banking system.

The member of the Planning and Budget Committee stated that if the cash flow and the growth of the national gross product are closely related, the rate of inflation growth will decrease. He said: If, on the other hand, the gross national product does not increase vis-a-vis the growth of cash flow, its difference will be converted into inflation, whereas if there is a logical relationship between the two, it will both cause an increase in employment and decrease the rate of inflation.

Dari-Najafabadi added: In a report, it was stated that last year in Malaysia, the growth of cash flow was about 10 percent, the growth of the gross national product was about 8 percent, and the growth of inflation was about 4 percent. In other words, there was a clear composition of decrease in the cash flow, growth of the gross domestic product, and decrease in the rate of inflation.

The member of the Planning and Budget Committee mentioned the implementation of interest-free banking legislation as one of the proud acts of the Islamic regime and said: The origin of this law, and for the banking system of a country to be operated on an interest-free basis and on the basis of investment, limited partnership, participation, acquisition with the condition to buy, and various Islamic contracts, was implemented for the first time in the Islamic Republic of Iran.

He mentioned the issue of supervision and education as two necessary and important issues in the banking network of the country and said: Because of the sensitivity and particular importance of the banking network, precise supervision and control over all the functions of the officials of 10,000 banking networks [as published] must exist throughout the country, so that by preventing violations and misuses, the people's trust is gained.

Training the employees of the banks is also worthy of note. The banking system must invest in this matter in order for the employees of the banking system to implement the banking operations within the framework of religious and legal regulations.

In continuation, the deputy from Tehran emphasized the issue of supervision of the Central Bank over other banks and said: The Central Bank must have a very strong central information network and through it supervise the issues of the foreign obligations of the banks, the foreign currency activities, and the opening of credit by other banks through the central control system.

Hojjat ol-Eslam Dari-Najafabadi mentioned the decrease in the expenditures of the banks and the necessity for conservation in the expenditures of the banking system as an important and essential step and said: Efforts must be made to bring the current expenditures, construction of buildings, and change of decoration in the banks to a possible minimum, and for financial order and discipline to be established in the banks, and for the people to see conservation, frugality, and avoidance of waste in the banking system.

In continuation of this interview, the overseeing member of the Majles in the Monetary and Credit Council referred to the costs of the printing of paper money in the country and said: Annually about 600 million pieces of new paper money are printed to replace the worn out money, and every piece of paper money costs 75 rials to print. In order to prevent such costs, the banking network may by expanding the use of credit cards prevent the high circulation of money in the society.

Dari-Najafabadi also asked for the distribution of funds and bank loans within the framework of the overall policies of the country and added: As anticipated in the banking law, the loan contracts must not be in form only. If a contract regarding agriculture is prepared, the money must not be spent in the services sector. This is only possible through supervision and control.

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New Prices of Several Household Goods Announced

96LA0049E Tehran RESALAT in Persian 5 Sep 95 p 15

[FBIS Translated Text] **Economic Division—The new prices of several kinds of televisions, refrigerators, freezers, and washing machines manufactured by domestic factories was announced by the Consumers and Producers Protection Organization.**

Based on a report by the Public Relations Office of this organization, the new prices of these items for consumers are as follows: fully automatic Zimkuh washing machine, 1.543 million rials [R]; new 12-ft Qus refrigerator (Iran Puya), R683,000; upright 12-ft freezer (Iran Puya), R716,000; 14-inch black and white television (Jam-e Jahannama), R212,000; and a 20-inch color television (Jam-e Jahannama), R964,000.

Share Prices of Companies in Stock Market

96LA0049F Tehran RESALAT in Persian 7 Sep 95 p 15

[FBIS Translated Text] **Economic Division—The level of trading of shares this week was 1,527,166 shares at a value of more than 8,130,203,000 rials [R]. These purchases were made in 2,991 transactions for 5,318 people, and the orders to change their ownership deeds were issued.**

Of the 88 companies whose shares were traded this week, the shares of 17 companies decreased due to supply and demand and one company due to holding a general assembly meeting and an increase in capital. Also, the shares of 45 companies increased from R1 to R2,962. For this reason, the total index of the price of shares, with 16.13 units of increase, reached 979.99 units.

The most active day of trading of shares for the week was Tuesday, 14 Shahrivar [5 September]. On this day, 807,580 shares at a value of $2.748 billion [as published] were purchased in 660 transactions by 1,380 people.

Price of Gold Decreases in Shiraz

96LA0049G Tehran RESALAT in Persian 7 Sep 95 p 15

[FBIS Translated Text] **Shiraz (IRNA)**—In Shiraz, the prices of new and old design Bahar-e Azadi gold coins decreased on Wednesday [6 September] by 5,000 rials [R] compared to the previous day and were sold at R390,000 and R415,000, respectively.

Five grams of miscellaneous gold were traded at the fixed price of R188,928.

Establishment of Chain Stores in Ilam Noted

96LA0049H Tehran RESALAT in Persian 7 Sep 95 p 15

[Report on interview with Engineer Shafe'i, minister of cooperatives, by unidentified correspondents in Ilam; date not given]

[FBIS Translated Text] **Ilam (RESALAT) correspondent—With the establishment of 9,000 production and consumer cooperatives in the country, job opportunities have been created for 334,000 people seeking employment.**

In an interview with reporters, Eng. Shafe'i, the minister of cooperatives, who had traveled to Ilam, made this statement and said: In the future, with the establishment of chain stores in the province of Ilam and offering goods at a 20 percent discount to the people in these stores, the vulnerable stratum of government employees in the province of Ilam will enjoy the protection of the Ministry of Cooperatives.

Eng. Shafe'i emphasized that the goal of the regime of the Islamic Republic is to implement equity and justice and create growth and development in the society and said: Capital and investment in the society belong to a large stratum of the people. In the past, by paying 180 billion tumans to the urban and rural cooperative companies and other production companies, some of the needs of the people in connection with employment have been met.

*Median Price of Food Items Ending 8 Sep

96LA0008A Tehran SALAM in Persian 23 Sep 95 p 4

[FBIS Translated Text] News Service—In the week ending 17 Shahrivar [8 September], the price of most food items, such as rice, legumes, eggs, red meat, and most fruits, increased.

According to the Economic Office of the Central Bank, during the week in question, the price of non-pasteurized yogurt and Iranian cheese decreased compared to the previous week, and the price of pasteurized butter, and especially powdered milk, increased. Eggs are sold from 3,800-4,200 rials [R] per carton, which shows a price increase. The price of various kinds of rice and most legumes increased. Grocery stores located in the squares under the supervision of City Hall sold various legumes about R380-940 less than the similar products in the stores throughout the city.

In the week under examination, the squares under the supervision of the City Hall sold fresh fruits and vegetables of relatively high quality at the prices of the organization of Tehran City Hall fruit and vegetable

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markets. Fruit sellers throughout the city sold premium quality fresh fruits and vegetables, and the increase in the prices of all fresh fruits and most fresh vegetables was severe.

During this week, meat coupons were announced. The price of various red meats increased, but the price of chicken declined. In the week under examination, the prices of sugar cubes, sugar, and tea were relatively stable. Shortening (non- coupon) was scarcely available in some of the Qods, Sepah, and Town and Country Stores.

Below we show the changes in the prices of some items in each of the groups compared to the previous week.

Comparative Chart of Average Price of Certain Food Items in the Week Ending on 17/06/1374 [8 September 1995] (in Rials)

Name and Specification of Goods	Unit	Government Price	Average Price in Week:			Percentage of Change in Price in Current Week Compared to Week:	
			Current	Previous	Similar Last Month	Previous	Similar Last Month
1. Dairy products						4.6	4.4
Non-pasteurized yogurt	kg		880	891	908	- 1.2	-3.1
Premium Iranian cheese	kg		7,000	7,189	7,292	-3.6	-4
Domestic and imported pasteurized butter	kg	6,400	16,743	16,223	16,386	2.1	2.2
Powdered milk (Nini, Faska, and Murinaka)	can	270	8,283	6,958	6,765	19	22.4
2. Eggs						3.5	5.2
Eggs (per carton)	about 2 kg		3,983	3,848	3,786	3.5	5.2
3. Rice						3.2	-2.9
Imported (Thailand) rice	kg	1,300	2,731	2,638	2,750	3.5	-0.7
Imported (non-Thailand) rice	kg	1,300	3,656	3,605	3,830	1.4	-2.5
Premium domestic Sadri rice	kg		5,562	5,217	5,767	4.6	-3.5
4. Legumes		Price in City Hall markets				2.4	-4.2
Chick peas	kg	3,100	3,600	3,607	4,065	- 0.2	-11.4
Split pear	kg	3,700	4,076	4,017	4,343	1.5	-6.1
Lentils	kg	2,400	2,777	2,692	3,080	3.2	-9.8

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Name and Specification of Goods	Unit	Government Price	Average Price in Week:			Percentage of Change in Price in Current Week Compared to Week:	
Kidney beans	kg	3,200	4,140	4,086	4,003	1.3	3.4
Black-eye peas	kg						
White beans	kg	2,250	2,814	3,788	2,962	0.9	-5
Red beans	kg	3,500	4,221	3,912	4,060	7.9	4
5. Fresh fruits						13.9	0
Lebanon-seed red apples	kg						
Lebanon-seed yellow apples	kg						
Golab apples	kg	1,000	2,277	1,943	2,107	17.2	8.1
Sweet lemon	kg		1,478	-	-	-	-
Figs	kg	900	1,662	1,542	2,027	7.8	- 18.4
Pomegranates	kg	550	1,273	-	-	-	-
Pears	kg	900	1,702	1,300	[illegible]2	21	- 3.3
Nectarines	kg	1,100	2,371	2,079	2,137	14	10.9
Peaches	kg	1,100	1,892	1,722	1,722	9.9	9.2
Grapes	kg	750-850	1,527	1,277	1,407	10.9	8.5
Kharbuzeh	kg	450	710	620	780	14.5	- 9
Cantaloupe	kg	250	612	547	657	11.9	-6.8
Watermelon	kg	300	442	408	438	8.3	0.9
6. Fresh vegetables						7	2.8
Cucumbers	kg	550	845	818	808	3.3	4.6
Tomatoes	kg	400	553	489	547	13.1	1.1
Eggplants	kg	350	612	522	677	14.8	- 9.6
Zucchini	kg	350	548	475	553	15.4	- 0.9
Potatoes	kg	450	758	708	772	7.1	- 1.9
Onions	kg	300	462	428	400	5.5	15.5
Green beans	kg	600	885	915	852	-3.3	2.9
Leaf vegetables	kg	300	553	553	502	0	9.9
7. Red meat						2.1	9.6
Mutton and goat with bones	kg	7,300	10,013	9,800	9,877	2.2	1.4
Beef and veal, boneless	kg		12,019	11,556	10,215	4	17.7
8. Chicken						-2.8	4.9

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Name and Specification of Goods	Unit	Government Price	Average Price in Week:			Percentage of Change in Price in Current Week Compared to Week:	
Chicken	kg	4,200	4,789	4,976	4,565	-2.8	4.9
9. Sugar cubes and sugar		Government price				-0.2	-0.2
Sugar cubes	kg	27.5-1,260	1,262	1,268	1,269	-0.4	-0.5
Sugar	kg	27.5-1,100	1,100	1,100	1,100	0	0
10. Tea						0	0
Mixed Bahareh tea (500 gram)	pkg	2,100	2,100	2,100	2,100	0	0
11. Shortening							
Shortening (4.5 kg can)	can	294-11,600					

Pakistan

U.S. Accused of Trying To Disrupt Iran Ties

BK0112060295 Karachi AMN in Urdu 18 Nov 95 p 3

[Article by Syed Mohammad Raza Jafri]

[FBIS Translated Text] The relationship between Pakistan and Iran is based on common bonds of Islamic brotherhood and historical traditions, as well as the spirit of mutual cooperation and assistance in times of difficulties. The two countries enjoy very deep-rooted and strong bilateral ties. One historical proof that reflects Tehran's feeling of love toward Islamabad is that Iran was the first country in the world to recognize Pakistan after it came into being. Their bilateral ties have grown from strength to strength with the passage of time. During our two wars with India, the United States deceived us. In spite of having signed military and defense agreements, the United States did not help us; but Iran provided every possible assistance and support to us.

Before the Islamic revolution in Iran, the United States had been maintaining its hegemony over that country and the CIA's interference in its domestic and foreign affairs had increased so much that it seemed that they were the de facto rulers in Tehran. However, after the success of the Islamic revolution, Iran has come to command new respect and honor and prestige in the entire world, especially among the Islamic community. The present Iranian leadership, which is imbued with the spirit of Islam, has ushered in an era of Islamic renaissance; but this is not liked by the Western countries, especially the United States, which desire to maintain their hegemony and domination over the entire world and to ensure that all countries, including Iran and Pakistan — which champion the cause of the Islamic world, remain their colonies for ever, as is the case with several Arab states. It is for the aforementioned reasons that the West does not like to see the growing fraternal ties between Iran and Pakistan.

Much before the Pakistani prime minister's recent visit to Iran, the United States had begun steps to foil the successful outcome of the visit. Two important U.S. personalities, including a senior diplomat, who were sent to Pakistan, tried — though unsuccessfully — to sow seeds of hatred and animosity between the two brotherly Islamic countries. It has always been the effort and policy of the Western countries to keep two Islamic countries from coming closer and adopting a united stand. The history is full of such incidents and the latest examples are Iraq and Kuwait, Egypt and Sudan, and Yemen and Saudi Arabia.

As part of its "foreign strategy", the United States is currently engaged in creating tensions in the relationship between Pakistan and Iran, but the manner in which the prime minister was received in Iran and the sincerity with which the Iranian leadership welcomed her reflect that her visit has opened a new chapter in bilateral relations. The best example of mutual trust between the leadership of the two countries is that during this visit, the Iranian leaders held private discussions with the Pakistani prime minister for about one hour. This is the first time that the Iranian leadership has had closed-door talks with a head of state of another country.

During this visit, the "Afghanistan" issue was on the top of the agenda of discussions between Pakistan and Iran. The United States has been interfering in Afghanistan — sometimes openly, but generally covertly — and has been trying to use this issue to create tension between

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Pakistan and Iran; but the leaders of the two countries demonstrated extreme statesmanship, forbearance, and political wisdom and resolved this delicate problem, thwarting all conspiracies in this regard.

The statement of a senior U.S. official on the very soil of Pakistan, and only a few hours before the prime minister's visit to Iran, that Pakistan should abandon Iran because Washington wants to isolate Tehran was totally against the diplomatic and ethical norms and was tantamount to a blatant interference in the internal affairs of Pakistan. The prime minister's successful visit must have shocked and disappointed the Americans. This also reflects the latest defeat of the U.S. "foreign strategy," because, presently, Pakistani-Iranian relations are a model of ties between two states and the two countries are coming even closer notwithstanding the U.S. attempts to drive a wedge between them by creating as much misunderstanding as it can. The future of friendship between Pakistan and Iran is very bright.

The United States has used every trick at its hand to create tension in the Pakistani-Iranian relationship. Attempts were made to incite sectarianism; to create hatred between two countries with the help of terrorist groups; and to pressure the government to distance itself from Iran; but all of these nefarious designs failed. Lately, it has been feared that Afghanistan soil might be used to damage the relationship between Pakistan and Iran, but that possible conspiracy, too, was foiled by the prime minister's recent visit to Iran. Pakistan has convinced the Iranian leadership that Islamabad is not supporting the Taleban or, for that matter, any group in Afghanistan. Since Pakistan desires to see peace being restored in Afghanistan, it will whole-heartedly welcome and support any effort by Iran to achieve this objective.

Paper: Foreign Agencies Working Against Country

BK3011122395 Islamabad THE NEWS in English 30 Nov 95 p 9

[Unattributed report: "CIA, MOSSAD, RAW Working Against Pakistan, Says Noorani"]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Karachi (PPI) — Maulana Shah Ahmad Noorani, Chief of Milli Yekjehti Council (MYC) and President JUP [Jathika Vimukthi Peramuna] on Wednesday [29 November] announced tht there will be a countrywide strike on December 30, 1995, in which masses will prove that they are fed up and hate the present government for its anti-people policies like price spiral, unemployment and also demonstrate that they will foil conspiracies of the United States and the West against the integrity of Pakistan.

The CIA of the United States, MOSSAD of Israel, RAW [Research and Analysis Wing] of India and Qadianis are working jointly against Pakistan and want to disintegrate our country. The ethnic and linguistic riots in certain parts of the country are part of the conspiracy against the integrity of Pakistan, Maulana Noorani said in an interview with PPI in his office in Karachi on Wednesday.

The CIA, MOSSAD, RAW and Qadianis are planning to create smaller province in Pakistan. They want to divide and weaken Pakistan so that American domination in our country prevails. It is also means to use Pakistan as a base against Iran and enable United States to make-in-roads into Central Asian countries, he added.

Maulana Noorani declared that the MYC would foil the conspiracies hatched by the United States against Pakistan in the same manner "we stopped the sectarian riots in some areas of the country early this year".

He warned the people against the United States conspiracies and said that MYC leaders are touring the country in order to mobilize public opinion in this regard.

He said a countrywide protest day will be observed on December 29, 1995, against the United States at its actions through the World Bank and International Monetary Fund (IMF) to make Pakistan "slave of these organisations" which has resulted in price spiral, massive unemployment and spread of vulgarity over the television. On December 22, 1995, top leaders of MYC including Maulana Noorani will address a public meeting at Liaquat Bagh, Rawalpindi.

Answering a question, he maintained that if the religious parties come into the ground in a united way, they can play the same role as they did in the movement launched in 1977. He recalled that the religious parties achieved success in 1974 when a constitutional amendment was passed by the National Assembly to declare Qadiaris as non-Muslims.

"The present government should see the writing on the wall. As Islam is the state religion of Pakistan under the Constitution, it (government) should defend Islam and not the United States. If this is not done, the religious parties under the banner of MYC will accept the challenge given by the government of leveling charge of terrorism against the Deeni Madaris in the country on the insistence of the United States and ensure constitutional rule," He stressed.

He maintained that the United States and the West want that International Islamic University (IIC), Islamabad and Deeni Madaris which are imparting religious education and training to khatibs and qaris not only of

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Pakistan but some Muslim countries as well should be closed down.

He charged the government with tarnishing the image of Islam and ulema, in fact, the government was not protecting Islam but defending the United States which wants Pakistan to play the role of President Hosni Mubarak of Egypt. He accused the United States that by conspiring to close down Deeni Madaris in Pakistan it wants to finish the Islamic identity and Islamic values in our country.

Replying to another question, he said that some Egyptian organizations had claimed responsibility for the bomb blasts at the embassy of Egyptian in Islamabad earlier this month. But the present government on the pretext that Deeni Madaris were imparting language of terrorism to its students started a campaign of harassment.

He explained that no students of any 2,500 Deeni Madaris all over the country was involved in the bomb blasts at Egyptian Embassy nor any arms were recovered from the premises of these madaris so far. Maulana Noorani pointed out that universities in various cities including Karachi, Jamshoro, Nawabshah, Larkana, Multan, Lahore and Peshwar had witnessed incidents of firing and killings in the free use of Kalashnikovs. Besides there was addiction of heroin among male and female students of these varsities. Regrettably, the government is not taking any action at these educational institutions" he added

He said that 2,500 Deeni Madaris were also registered and run by organizations recognized by the government and prepare hafiz, qaris, and alims who in turn impart religious education and work as khatibs in the mosques including those of defense services.

Jamaat-i-Islami Leader Protests FBI Presence

BK3011095395 Islamabad THE MUSLIM in English 30 Nov 95 p 10

[Report by Salahuddin Haider]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Karachi, No 29 — The Jamaat-i-Islami lodged strong protest with the government today over the presence of American FBI team in Pakistan and termed it as a direct attack on the country's sovereignty.

Articulating the party's thinking on the sensitive issue, Jamaat leader Qazi Hussain Ahmad said that Interior Minister's admission in a TV interview that the Americans had come uninvited, was a matter of shame for Pakistan.

"We lodge our strong protest on that", the Senator from NWFP [North-West Frontier Province] said at a press conference at which the entire central leadership of the party was present. The press conference climaxed two days of moot during which the party evaluated the country's politico-economic situation and decided on its new strategy.

Mr Qazi said the Jamaat in cooperation with 22 other religious parties had announced a strike for December 30 from the platform of the newly created Milli Yakjehti Council (MYC).

Newsmen however were keen to know the rationale for the five-week wait which the Opposition has chosen to accept for mass mobilisation. He explained that time was needed for preparations. The MYC will observe a protest day on December 29 throughout the country and will hold a rally in Rawalpindi's Liaquat Bagh. Followed by a countrywide strike day on December 30.

Turning back to FBI's presence, he said that the Americans had not so far tried to investigate or even approach any Jamaat activist or leader in connection with the party activities or the bomb blast in Egyptian embassy. However the FIA [Federal Investigation Agency] of Pakistan had raided the Kashmir office in Rawalpindi which was regrettable. He also deplored the assistance which the Pakistan FIA was offering to FBI.

Dwelling on Karachi situation he said the problem in the port town was much more severe than was being made out. The army or the rangers will not be able to solve it. It was a typical situation in Karachi which demanded cool approach and negotiations with MQM [Muhajir Qaumi Movement].

He suggested that the MQM leader Altaf Hussain instead of writing letters to political leaders from London should return to Pakistan and hold negotiations with them. He said he would welcome Altaf Hussain in Karachi.

Qazi Hussain said the Jamaat was an opposition party and would welcome any coordinated move from the combined Opposition parties against the government which had failed to run the country and increased miseries on the people.

He refrained from revealing the contents of his talks with Army Chief Gen Abdul Waheed but denied that he had given assurance to him against making an issue of the recent arrests in the army. "we did not discuss any such thing", he said.

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Russian Embassy Denies Arms Supply to Afghanistan

BK3011110295 Islamabad THE PAKISTAN TIMES in English 30 Nov 95 p 1

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Islamabad, Nov. 29 — The Embassy of the Russian Federation in Pakistan on Wednesday [29 November] said that the foreign mass media continues to publish articles containing new fabrications about an imaginary interference of Russia into the Afghan affairs.

"Our principled policy of non-involvement into the inter-Afghan conflict remains consistent", says an Embassy Press release issued today.

Meanwhile, when contacted observers on Afghan situation stated, if, indeed, Russia is not interfering in the affairs of Afghanistan, how come it is that convoys bearing arms and ammunition for Kabul regime are being sent from a Central Asian State in which the Russians are in an overwhelming majority.

Indeed, there are daily flights from the Central Asian State to Kabul for ferrying armaments, to Bagram airbase, which is controlled by the Kabul regime.

They stated these tactics of Russians to deny interference in Afghanistan are old. They are upto their necks in supporting the regime with technicians and other assistance.

It is also reliably learnt that Indian arms are reaching Kabul daily, the observers noted.

Media Cooperation Discussed With DPRK Team

BK2911063495 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in English 0500 GMT 29 Nov 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] In Islamabad, the delegation of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea yesterday discussed with senior officials of the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting a number of proposal for greater collaboration in mass media. Both sides underlined the need to devise a mechanism to activate news exchange agreement between the national news agencies of the two countries. The Korean delegation was led by the vice chairman of Information, Mr. Kim Guan-Hee, while Information Secretary Mr. Mohammad Akram represented Pakistan.

Paper on Possible Replacement of Army Chief

BK0112071295 Peshawar THE FRONTIER POST in English 1 Dec 95 p 1

[Report by G. N. Mughul]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Karachi — The incumbent Quarter Master General, Naseer Akhtar, is likely to be made new Chief of the Army Stafff [COAS] in place of Gen. Abdul Waheed, due for retirement in the second week of January, reliable quarters indicated.

The decision to appoint Lt. Gen Naseer Akhtar as the new COAS was taken after Gen Waheed declined a proposal of extension in his tenure for one more year.

Akhtar has remained corps commander, Sindh, for a considerable period. Within the army circles he is considered an expert on Karachi situation.

Former Army Chief Comments on Political Situation

BK0112100595 Islamabad THE NATION in English 1 Dec 95 p 5

[Report by "our correspondent"]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Multan — Chief of Awami Qiyadat Party Mirza Muhammad Aslam Beg has said that the presidential form of government was the best system to meet the political requirements of the country.

Addressing a crowded Press conference here on Thursday [30 November], he said in this way neither the President would dissolve the National Assembly nor the Chief of Army Staff [COAS] would bring any political change in the country, however he opined that the present democratic system would continue to function and if there is any change it would be through Parliament only.

He said that the people were very much concerned about the confrontation going on between the government and the Opposition, however, he ruled out any possibility of change under present circumstances. He said the PML (N) [Pakistan Muslim League — Nawaz] Chief Mian Nawaz Sharif had no street power and as such he was not in a position to launch movement to topple the government.

Aslam Beg said in the past a number of movements were launched against the government at the instance of the foreign powers and added that there could be no foreign support for any political change because US had already tried Nawaz Sharif. He also ruled possibility [as published] of another Moin Qureshi government and said elections would be held in 1998 for which his party was preparing itself.

He said that the exploiters and looters were ruling the country but his party would strive hard to bring the downtrodden in to power. He said he never wanted to impose Martial Law in the country in 1988 and added he could do so if he desired because COAS was all powerful to bring any revolution without consulting any Corps Commanders.

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The Former Chief of Army Staff said the present COAS Gen Abdul Waheed was not interested in extension in his service. However, he could not say anything if the government itself extended his term of office. Mr Beg categorically said that whoever replaced Gen Abdul Waheed, he would not interfere at all in the political affairs and would play his role like Gen Waheed.

To a question, he said the imposition of Martial Law had been complete failure and no Martial Law government could deliver the goods. Answering another question he said the nation would have to face difficulties and miseries due to deteriorating law and order situation and price-hike.

Economic Crisis, Inflation Blamed on Government

BK0112094195 Islamabad THE NATION in English 1 Dec 95 p 16

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Lahore — Former Finance Minister and Secretary General of PML(N) [Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz], Sartaj Aziz has said that the current economic crisis was the accumulative result of the mis-conceived priorities of the present government.

"It appeared as if the government did not take into account the ground realities before drawing up is policies or priorities" he claimed. He also held the government responsible for the current inflation saying "one third of the prices are raised during the period of this government." He was talking to the newsmen during a discussion on Islamic Economic System, arranged by Pakistan Institute of National Affairs (PINA) here on Thursday [30 November].

Substantiating his point of view, he said that due to the unimaginative policies of the government, the stock exchange index had dropped from 2626 points to 1320 points, thereby, causing a loss of Rs 300 billion

Again, he said that another manifestation of the government's wrong policies was the fact that the setting up of large scale industries had come to a grinding halt while the functional industries had been running at a loss.

The Annual Budget 1994-95 presented by the this government, levied "record taxation" as a result of which interest rate went up from 17 per cent to 21 per cent, discouraging investment which affected adversely the growth rate and in this way a vicious circle was unleashed affecting the economy adversely, he claimed.

Criticising the government's policies he said that government's prime focus, since it took over, had been on reducing the budget deficit in the name of creating macro stability. "But even on this count, they failed to address to the factors which were equally important to stabilise the economic conditions of the country". The growing lawlessness in Karachi and other parts of Sindh, he maintained, was another factor which contributed to the worsening of the economic picture. "The government in order to achieve its own narrow pursuits has been unable to solve Karachi's problem". He said that the fluid situation in Karachi had its repercussions on the reset of the country as it constituted the nerve centre of the country. He said the growing cold war between the government and the business community also led to the deterioration of economic conditions in the country. "As a result of this, their strained relations even the positive measures of the government are not bearing fruit".

Sri Lanka

LTTE Blamed for Rejecting 'Olive Branch' Offer

BK2911134295 Colombo DAILY NEWS in English 29 Nov 95

[Received via Internet]

[FBIS Transcribed Excerpt] "President Chandrika Bandaranaike Kumaratunga offered the Tigers an olive branch but they unleashed violence, bloodshed, killings and destruction, trampling all forms of democratic rule and life. It was the LTTE [Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam] that dragged the Government into war", said Media, Tourism and Aviation Minister Dharmasiri Senanayake addressing the first death commemorative ceremony of former People's Alliance (PA) Parliamentarian of Puttalam district late Mr. Godfry J. Fernando, recently held at Denkotuwa Town Hall. [passage omitted]

He said, the ongoing war is to liberate the Tamil speaking people in the North and East from the cruel and treacherous grip of Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE) and build a united and prosperous Sri Lanka, where every citizen will enjoy equal rights.

"As a democratically elected Government, we are bound to bring about a lasting political solution to the bleeding ethnic issue. The devolution package offered by the Government was intended to devolve power on an ethnic basis within a framework of united Sri Lanka. Government offered the devolution package amidst strong protests from other ethnic groups. The LTTE rejecting the devolution process took up arms with a view to establish despotic terror rule in the North and East. The Government had to mete out justice to all citizens and in this context it was not possible on the part of the Government to allow the LTTE in operating as a terror group disrupting the democratic rule and civil administration in the country".

"The Government was compelled to mobilise necessary logistics in defeating the terror group suffering from the

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hallucination of a mythical Eelam. Our armed forces are fully equipped with all modern systems", he said.

Mr. Senanayake said the current war is gobbling an enormous amount of national resources, which in reality should be channelled for development and uplift of the socio-economic conditions of the people.

Mr. Jeyaraj Fernandopulle, Deputy Minister of Planning, Ethnic Affairs and National Integration said, the sudden demise of late Mr. J. Godfry Fernando was not only a loss to the people of Puttalam district, but the PA Government was deprived of one of the active, courageous and efficient Parliamentary representatives.

Mr. Fernandopulle said, the 1995 budget has provided much redress to the peasants, farmers and the working classes in the country. Budget also provides much incentive for both small and large scale entrepreneurs in embarking new industrial and agricultural ventures. Whatever the empty criticism made by the Opposition the new budget is a development-oriented one.

Tamil Parties Said Assisting Government in War

BK2911134795 Colombo DAILY NEWS in English 29 Nov 95

[Received via Internet]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Former militant groups and other Tamil parties are providing cadre and crucial intelligence to help the Sri Lankan army in its decisive war against the LTTE [Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam], the Indian national daily The Statesman said on Tuesday [28 November].

A Colombo-datelined India Abroad News Service report headlined Tamil parties help Lankan army, in the paper quoted a senior Sri Lankan army officer as saying that at least three Tamil parties, the Eelam People's Democratic Party (EPDP), Tamil Eelam Liberation Organisation (TELO), and the People's Liberation Organisation of Tamil Eelam (PLOTE) had provided their cadres to the army to fight the LTTE. "They also help us with intelligence gathering," the officer has told reporter Sugeeswara Senadhira.

"They consider the LTTE to be their biggest enemy. It is no secret that the Tigers had killed more Tamil leaders than Sinhala politicians," the officer had said.

The report also said:

The LTTE has in the past, killed topmost leaders of the Tamil United Liberation Front (TULF) including the party General Secretary, A. Amirthalingam, TELO leader Sri Sabharathnam, PLOTE leader Uma Maheswaran, Eelam People's Revolutionary Liberation Front (EPRLF) leader Kandiah Padhmanabha and others.

Only three months ago, the LTTE cadres attempted to assassinate EPDP leader Douglas Devananda who escaped by jumping a wall while four of his bodyguards died.

"The Tamil parties are waiting for the LTTE to go underground and they will vie for the dominant role in Tamil politics", a leading Tamil political scientist said, also speaking on the condition that he was not identified in the present situation.

"A section of the Tamil people are definitely fed up with the terror tactics of the LTTE" he said. "But it remains to be seen if they accept other Tamil parties, whose past record is full of instances of political expediency and hypocrisy".

Analysts say the Tamil parties, some of which include former militant groups, are not in a position to publicly support or oppose the recent offensive.

"On one hand the Tamil parties are happy that the government has launched an offensive to cripple the LTTE because they fear the LTTE" the Tamil political scientist said.

"On the other, they fear that the Tamil people would reject them if they keep mum at this crucial juncture, as it is the duty of the leaders to come to the rescue of Tamil people, of whom a large section have become refugees".

The country's oldest Tamil party, the Tamil United Liberation Front, has urged the Government to immediately declare a ceasefire and take effective measures to provide relief to an estimated half a million Jaffna residents, who fled the town and are living in refugee camps.

"Tamil people are suffering without food, medicine and basic needs", TULF leader M. Sivasithamparam said. "We appeal to both sides to stop fighting and help humanitarian activities undertaken by various Non-Governmental Organisations".

Speaking in the Parliament, TULF member Mr. A. Thangathurai, said massive destruction had already taken place in Jaffna. Hundreds were killed and hundreds of thousands became refugees.

Ex-militant groups, who had entered the democratic mainstream in 1987, accepting the Indo-Sri Lanka Agreement signed by Rajiv Gandhi and J.R. Jayewardene also expressed similar sentiments.

Mr. U. Bhaskaran of the Eelam Peoples Democratic Party said that north and east civilians were physically

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and mentally affected by war. "A cessation of hostilities should be declared with immediate effect to ensure safety of the civilians".

Although the Tamil parties have made these points for the record and asked for an appointment with the President, Chandrika Kumaratunga, to discuss the problems faced by the Tamil people, the parties have not yet taken any drastic action to gather public opinion.

"It is evident from their statements and actions that it is only a gesture", an analyst said.

"Tamil parties are well aware that as long as the LTTE is not militarily subdued, others cannot play any political role in the north and east. In private conversations, they express happiness over the military victories in Jaffna".

Security at Parliament 'Further Tightened'

BK3011154695 Colombo DAILY NEWS in English 30 Nov 95

[Received via Internet]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Security at Sri Lanka's Parliament complex was further tightened on Wednesday [29 November].

Making an announcement to the Members of Parliament, Speaker K.B. Ratnayake said members should not bring any visitors to the complex until further notice due to security reasons. The public gallery will remain closed. Only press reporters will be admitted to the viewing gallery.

He said ministers and members should refrain from holding meetings in the complex.

They should also bring only the necessary ministry officials during the debate on ministry votes.

The Parliament is located on an island on a lake at Sri Jayewardenepura, just outside Colombo.

The government banned all private domestic flights two months ago amidst reports that the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam were planning to bomb the Parliament using an aircraft hijacked or stolen from the Ratmalana airport, located only a few kilometres away.

Troops Capture 'Palatial' Home of LTTE Leader

BK0112031595 Colombo DAILY NEWS in English 1 Dec 95

[Report by Pramod de Silva — received via Internet]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Riviresa [sunshine] troops marching on the Jaffna city centre where hundreds of Tigers have found themselves trapped, have captured a palatial two-storeyed residence of LTTE [Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam] leader Velupillai Prabhakaran near the Nallur Kovil within the city limits.

This plush three bedroom residence with marble floors and panelled walls embellished with intricate carvings looks a typical castle, the like of which may not be found even in Tamil Nadu, military sources in Colombo said.

Troops had found 20 cushioned sofas, several elegant drawing room sets and other furniture of exquisite workmanship fit for royalty inside this residence. All furnishings are a testimony to the affluent life style that the LTTE leader had led, they said. "This man has been living in the lap of luxury while his followers were laying down their lives for the cause of Eelam," a military spokesman said. Military spokesman Brigadier Sarath Munasinghe said the residence had been used by Prabhakaran to meet and entertain Tigers assigned for suicide missions.

He told the weekly news briefing that the army was now in control of more than 50 percent of the land area inside the Jaffna city limits. Troops have also captured the Kittu Memorial Park for children, located close to the Tiger chief's residence. It is believed that the park, which has a battle tank on display, has been used to motivate youngsters to take up arms.

He said no damage has been caused to the Nallur Hindu temple, revered by all religious groups in the country. "LTTE cadres fired at our troops from within the temple compound. But we did not fire in that direction. Instead, troops resorted to other methods to evict them".

The kovil compound was liberally laced with anti-personnel mines, he said. Two soldiers have lost their limbs as a result. The military police is guarding the temple complex. "The LTTE has forced the chief priest to leave the kovil. Consequently, the inner shrine now remains locked".

Riviresa troops were advancing slowly taking no chances through the heavily mined and booby trapped terrain to minimise casualties to themselves and damage to private property. They continued to clear the buildings and houses of booby traps, improvised explosive devices and mines in the newly captured areas. Brigadier Munasinghe predicted that the troops will be in full control of Jaffna in a few days.

Some civilians had stayed put in their homes despite the orders from LTTE hierarchy to evacuate. However, not a single civilian has been reported killed from army fire since the troops launched the march on Jaffna.

Two Tigers believed to be senior cadres were killed by soldiers at Navalar road, Jaffna, yesterday.

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Meanwhile, soldiers shot dead five rebels in Mullaitivu on Wednesday [29 November]. One soldier died in the confrontation.

LTTE Leader Flees To 'Unknown' African Country

BK0112025695 Colombo DAILY NEWS in English 1 Dec 95

[Received via Internet]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The LTTE's [Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam] European leader, Lawrence Thilakar has ordered the closure of his "Arms for Eelam" base in Meaux on the outskirts of Paris and has fled to an unknown African destination.

'Radio Algiers in yesterday's pre-dawn news broadcast, monitored in Colombo, said that LTTE cadres who were running safehouses from the port city of Rotterdam to Dunkerque, France, were in total disarray, following cordon and search operations launched by metropolitan police sleuths in European capitals.

'Radio Algiers' said that the open anti-LTTE stance adopted last week by the Council of Ministers of the European Union was the direct outcome of President Chandrika Kumaratunga's recent address to UN members in which she called on friendly nations to help prevent the smuggling of arms to the troubled north and east of Sri Lanka if they cherished the cause of peace.

Dunkerque which is only a few kilometres away from the British shoreline is the cross-Atlantic sea route through which LTTE mercenaries accompany boatloads of arms to their go-down in the marine town of Scheveningen-a stone's throw from Rotterdam port.

The radio announced that Thilakar's current mission was allegedly to seek arms from black African rebels who were themselves battling for a separate homeland. It added that Thilakar was under pressure from the LTTE's London headquarters to speedily answer frantic calls from the arms depleted cadres in Sri Lanka's north and east.

LTTE theoretician, Anton Balasingham had sent a veiled threat to Thilakar that if he could not rise to the occasion at this crucial juncture, he was destined for the fate that befell the dead "Mahattya", who betrayed Prabhakaran in a sinister quest for LTTE leadership.

Japan Predicted To Become 'Number One Investor'

BK2911102195 Colombo DAILY NEWS in English 29 Nov 95

[Report by Richard de Silva — received via Internet]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] "Japan will soon be the number one investor and employer in Sri Lanka while Pallekelle will be an electronic centre and the most successful of all our industrial zones."

This prediction was made by the Chairman and Director General of the Board of Investment [BOI] Thilan Wijesinghe when he opened the first factory over the weekend at the Pallekele Industrial Park. This park was inaugurated in April by President Chandrika Kumaratunga.

Mr. Wijesinghe said "With the setting up of this electronic industry by the Japanese investor Uchihashi Lanka (Pvt) Ltd, we are entering a new phase in our industrialisation.

"I am excited about what I see here in these salubrious surroundings and the potential Pallekele holds for the future of Sri Lanka."

He said: "I see this zone as an electronic centre for this region soon. This climate and the surroundings are ideal for electronic plants. It has great potential to attract foreign investors such as Japanese and others with advanced technology. This is the reason why I am keen that the BOI should with university participation take steps to train educated youths for the electronic industry. I envisage this place as an electronic centre and Japan as the number one investor and employer in Sri Lanka.

"BOI must be involved with the training of persons in advanced technology because we want Sri Lanka to enter into advanced technological industry. I am confident of the future, as our infrastructure has been upgraded and there is great potential for heavy investment.

"Having studied the investment climates of other countries, I have no doubt that Sri Lanka can be an ideal investment destination." He hoped to start international publicity campaigns for investor promotion and public relations.

President of Uchihashi Lanka Ltd. H. Uchihashi said, "Before coming to Sri Lanka, I had visited several countries to find a suitable place for our factory, but when I visited Sri Lanka for the first time in October 1993 I was totally fascinated by the friendly people, warm weather and beautiful scenery of this country. Especially when I saw the Pallekele Industrial Park in Kandy, it struck me that I wanted to build our factory here.

Although we wished to start constructing the factory building as soon as we established Uchihashi Lanka in May 1995, we found that we had to clear an environmental issue first.

Fortunately this issue was settled smoothly thanks to the efforts and cooperation of BOI and other concerned

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parties. We received the formal approval for the construction work from the government of Sri Lanka, and celebrated the foundation stone laying ceremony at this place on January 27, 1995.

"Today I'm very pleased to see the completion of the construction work for the factory that reminds me of these past events. I would like to thank from the bottom of my heart those who made the greatest work and efforts."

Managing Director of Ushihashi Ltd. Masarn S. Ishida said "I always seek Sri Lankan advice and assistance to improve our industry, because Sri Lankans are very friendly and intelligent. I have a great love for them. I have been to so many countries and I am convinced that this is the best of all."

Paying a tribute to Sri Lankans working in Japan he said "They are clever, kind and trustworthy."

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